

Proceedings of the 50th Biennial Pacific Northwest District Convention

Held at Evergreen Lutheran High School, Tacoma, WA

June 12-13, 2018

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Convention worship

Opening Worship with Holy Communion was held at 8:30 am. Former District President, Ted Lambert, preached the sermon from Mark 4:26-29 under the theme *Celebrate a Century of the Word at Work*. District President, John Steinbrenner, served as Presiding Minister. The offering gathered \$573.50.

Invocation

District President John Steinbrenner opened the convention in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Attendance

58 voting delegates (36 pastors, 10 teachers, 1 staff minister, 11 congregation delegates)

Excused: Pastor Dan Kremer

Pastor Kevin Schultz

Pastor Mark Cares

Mr. Jason Kelley

Pastor Ben Workentine

Pastor Ray Beckmann

Mr. Brian Humann

Mr. John Sebald

Pastor Geoff Cortright

Pastor Warren Widmann

Pastor Ben Zuberbier

Visitors to the District Conference:

Pastor Ted Lambert, PNW DP emeritus

Pastor Mark Schroeder, WELS President

Professor E. Allen Sorum, WLS, Convention Presenter

Mr. Warren Ehlke, PNW Representative for Synodical Council

Pastor Bryan Gerlach, Commission on Worship

Pastor Mark Zarling, MLC President

Ms. Erika Herman, Pacific Office Automation

Pastor Matt Vogt, WELS Mission Counselor serving the PNW

Pastor Larry Schlomer, Board for World Missions

Mr. Lucas Faust, WLC, VP of Enrollment

Pastor Phil Spaude, Ministry of Christian Giving

Mr. Ted Weiss, President of the PNWD-Kingdom Worker Team

New members to the district:

Pastor Isaac Cherney, Redeemer LC, Yakima, WA

Pastor Kurtis Wetzel, Cross of Christ LC, Boise, ID

Pastor Luke Tembreull, Beautiful Savior, Corvallis, OR

Pastor Geoffrey Rue, St. Paul LC, Tacoma, WA

Pastor Aaron West, St. Matthew LC, Spokane, WA

Pastor Nathan Zastrow, Grace LC, Yakima, WA

Pastor Cale Mead, Christ LC, Juneau, AK

Pastor Benjamin Phelps, Grace LC, Kenai, AK

Pastor Jonathan Leach, Truth in Love Ministries, Nampa, ID
Mr. Phillip Bunkowske, Evergreen LHS, Tacoma, WA
Mr. Martin Santos, Holy Trinity LS, Des Moines, WA
Mr. Micah Wendt, Immanuel LS, Salem, OR
Mr. Jacob Biebert, St. Matthew LS, Spokane, WA
Mr. Joel Plocher, Holy Trinity LS, Des Moines, WA
Mr. Ryan Schmeling, Evergreen LHS, Tacoma, WA
Mr. Vincent Hallwas, Christ the King LS, Bremerton, WA
Mr. Travis Kretsch, Immanuel LS, Salem, OR
Mr. Jason Gibson, Holy Trinity LS, Des Moines, WA
Mr. Dave Malnes, Staff Minister, Praise and Proclaim Ministries

Business

Delegates and visitors rose and introduced themselves to the group.

Pastor John Steinbrenner, PNW District President, welcomed the convention and gave reminders.

Pastor Mark Schroeder, President of WELS, addressed the convention with greetings from WELS Presidium, thanking and encouraging Gospel ministry.

Pastor John Steinbrenner, PNW District President, presented his District President's report. See report.

Pastor Rob Guenther, Chairman of the Elections Committee, explained the elections procedure. Nominations were then received and elections run for the positions of District President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and District Secretary. Election results can be found in the addendum.

Prof. E. Allen Sorum presented Part 1 of "Silver Bullets for Successful Urban Cross-Cultural Gospel Outreach in the Booming Pacific Northwest."

Break for lunch (12:40 pm)

The conference reconvened at 1:30 pm.

Mr. Warren Ehlke, PNW Representative on Synodical Council, gave his report from Synodical Council. See presentation.

A video from Northwestern Publishing House was shown.

Prof. E. Allen Sorum presented Part 2 of "Silver Bullets for Successful Urban Cross-Cultural Gospel Outreach in the Booming Pacific Northwest."

Break (3:00 pm)

The conference reconvened at 3:15 pm.

Pastor Bryan Gerlach presented a Congregational Services Report and a Hymnal Committee Report.

Prof. E. Allen Sorum presented Part 2 of "Silver Bullets for Successful Urban Cross-Cultural Gospel Outreach in the Booming Pacific Northwest."

Break – (5:15) During the break, Circuits met to elect Circuit Pastors.

Circuit Pastors: Alaska Circuit: Pastor Jason Strong

Geoduck Circuit: Pastor Fred Schleg
Idaho Circuit: Pastor Daniel Kramer
Oregon Circuit: Pastor Thad Bitter
Rainier Circuit: Pastor Tom Voss
Sonshine Circuit: Pastor Tim Wilkens

Pastor Mark Zarling, MLC President, presented a Ministerial Ed Report featuring a video on Martin Luther College.

Closing devotion

Pastor Fred Voss closed the day's session with the service of Evening Meditation and a devotion based on Mark 4:1-9:
"The Seed Falls on Good Soil."

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Opening devotion

Pastor Gary Kraklow opened the conference day with the service of Morning Meditation and a devotion based on Mark 4:21-25: *"Whoever Has Will Be Given More."*

The Elections Committee addressed the convention. Nominations were opened and closed and voted on for Synodical Council Representative, Mission Board Pastor, Mission Board Lay Leader, Nominating Committee Chairman, Nom. Comm. Cascades Conference Pastor, Nom. Comm. Alaska Conference Teacher, Board of Appeals Pastor, Board of Appeals Teacher, and Board of Appeals Layman. Election results can be found at the convention website.

Prof. E. Allen Sorum presented Part 4 of "Silver Bullets for Successful Urban Cross-Cultural Gospel Outreach in the Booming Pacific Northwest."

Erika Herman gave a brief presentation on Copier Accounts that could save you money. Her contact information is on the back table.

District President Steinbrenner fielded PNW Feedback on replacing Delegate Conferences with Continued Education Conferences starting in 2019. A motion was made, supported, and passed. See "Resolutions" in the addendum.

A vote was taken to designate the \$573.50 offering from the opening service to ELHS.

Pastor Craig Wasser presented the District Mission Board Report. See reports.

Mr. Ted Klug and Mr. Ryan Schmeling presented the Evergreen Lutheran H.S. Report. See reports.

Break for lunch (12:15 pm)

The conference reconvened at 1:00 pm.

Pastor Larry Scholmer presented a report on the Synod's World Missions Report. See reports.

Principal Chris Hinz presented a report on the Commission for Lutheran Schools.

President Steinbrenner strongly encouraged all the convention delegates to remember to read the CP Reports, Synod School Reports and Greetings from other WELS Districts that are located online.

Pastor Ed Frey encouraged everyone to look at the report on the back table.

District President Steinbrenner fielded PNW Feedback on merging our Commission on Adult Discipleship and our

Commission on Youth Discipleship following the lead of our synod. A motion was made, supported, and passed. See "Resolutions" in the addendum.

Mr. Lucas Faust, Vice President of Enrollment, gave a brief presentation and shared a video on Wisconsin Lutheran College.

Mr. Ted Weiss presented on PNW WELS Kingdom Workers. See reports.

Pastor Rob Guenther presented the list of PNW delegates and alternates to the 2019 Synod Convention. The motion was made, supported, and passed to ratify the list. (See Addendum or Reports.)

Pastor Kurt Wetzel presented his summary of the RTTD. See reports.

District President Steinbrenner presented a resolution of thanks. See "Resolutions" in the addendum.

Pastor Dan Lange presented his worship report with a video from Koine. See reports.

The motion was made, supported, and passed to adjourn the convention.

Closing

Pastor Matt Zimpelmann closed the day with the service of Midday Meditation and a devotion based on Mark 40:30-34: *"The Smallest Seed to the Largest Plant."* The District Presidium and Circuit Pastors were installed.

Addendum

PNW Delegates to 2019 Synod Convention Updated 6/10/2018

Pastors (4)

Delegates 2019:

1. Andrew Schwartz
2. Matt Zimpelmann
3. Fred Schleg
4. Kevin Schultz

Alternates 2019:

1. Dan Moll
2. Brian Hackmann
3. Scott Mews
4. Bryan Schwarz

Teachers/Staff Ministers (2)

Delegates 2019:

1. Joshua Roth
2. Chris Hintz

Alternates 2019:

1. Paul Leifer
2. Ryan Holper

Congregations (7)

Delegates 2019:

1. Gethsemane, Tigard
2. Grace, Zillah
3. Christ the King, Bremerton
4. Divine Peace, Renton
5. Faith, Anchorage
6. Good Faith, South Cle Elum
7. Grace, Seattle

Alternates 2019:

1. King of Kings, Kennewick
2. Messiah, Lacey
3. Messiah, Nampa
4. Peace, Eagle River
5. Amazing Grace, Milwaukie
6. Beautiful Savior, Everett
7. Christ, Juneau

2018 Elections Summary

Presidium

District President - Pastor John Steinbrenner
1st Vice President - Pastor Joel Nitz
2nd Vice President - Pastor Daniel Lange
District Secretary/Treasurer - Pastor Matt Zimpelmann

Other Offices

Synodical Council Rep - Mr. Brent Masters
Mission Board Pastor - Pastor Craig Wasser
Mission Board Lay Leader - Mr. Mel Kam
Nominating Committee Chairman - Pastor Jason Strong
Nom. Comm. Cascades Conference Pastor - Pastor Bryan Schwarz
Nom. Comm. Alaska Conference Teacher - Mr. Ryan Holper
Board of Appeals Pastor - Pastor Kevin Schultz
Board of Appeals Teacher - Mr. Paul Leifer
Board of Appeals Layman - Mr. Dennis Twenge

Circuit Pastors

Alaska Circuit - Pastor Jason Strong
Geoduck Circuit - Pastor Fred Schleg
Idaho Circuit - Pastor Dan Kramer
Oregon Circuit - Pastor Thad Bitter
Rainier Circuit - Pastor Tom Voss
Sonshine Circuit - Pastor Tim Wilkens

Resolutions of the 51st Biennial Pacific Northwest District Convention

Resolution No. 1

Subject: Replacing the Delegate Conference with a Continuing Education Conference

- WHEREAS 1) the WELS has enjoyed a renewed emphasis on the continuing education of called workers through initiatives at Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary; and
- WHEREAS 2) the WELS PNW District has an opportunity to dedicate a regular time for all called workers to gather for continuing education; and
- WHEREAS 3) called workers in the Pacific Northwest have difficulty attending continuing education courses offered in the Midwest; and
- WHEREAS 4) other districts in the WELS have established a continuing education conference to replace the delegate conference; and
- WHEREAS 5) participation by lay delegates to a delegate conference has become more difficult; and
- WHEREAS 6) lay delegates for the synod convention often find it difficult because of time constraints to attend both the district conference and the synod convention; and
- WHEREAS 7) circuits can study the BORAM in regional meetings instead of a delegate conference; and
- WHEREAS 8) replacing the delegate conference will save congregations the costs of sending lay delegates; therefore be it
- Resolved: That WELS PNW District replaces the delegate conference of odd-numbered years with a continuing education conference beginning in 2019; and be it further
- Resolved: That circuits of the PNW District devote time in their regular meetings or in special meetings to study the BORAM and discuss the issues for the WELS Convention; and be it finally
- Resolved: That lay delegates to the WELS Convention either attend the circuit meetings to discuss the BORAM or participate in teleconferences on the circuit or district level to discuss the BORAM.

Resolution No. 2

Subject: Resolution to Merge the Pacific Northwest District's Commission on Adult Discipleship and Youth and Family Ministry in the Pacific Northwest in the PNWD Commission on Discipleship

- WHEREAS 1) our WELS' (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod's) leadership will be merging the WELS Commission on Adult Discipleship and Youth and Family Ministry Committee into one Commission on Discipleship and
- WHEREAS 2) the PNWD (Pacific Northwest District) currently has in its structure two separate committees of Adult Discipleship and Youth and Family Ministry, based on our WELS model and
- WHEREAS 3) the PNWD gives glory to God to be a member of the WELS and
- WHEREAS 4) the PNWD submits to the leadership, example, and model of the WELS and its various ministries within our church body, therefore be it
- Resolved: that the PNWD follows the lead of the WELS and merge our District Commission on Adult Discipleship and Youth and Family Ministry Committees into one single Committee and be it further
- Resolved: that the District in convention follow the example of the WELS and title this new committee the Pacific Northwest District Commission on Discipleship and be it finally
- Resolved: that we follow the direction of our District Praesidium to determine how best to proceed in the appointment or election of a chairperson for this committee and the term of their office.

Resolution No. 3

Subject: Thanks to Our Hosts

- WHEREAS 1) The Pacific Northwest District Convention has enjoyed the use of the Evergreen Lutheran High School facilities, and
- WHEREAS 2) the faculty and staff of Evergreen Lutheran High School have hosted this convention with their customary hospitality, and
- WHEREAS 3) we have been spiritually fed by Pastors Lamber and Sorum, blessed by the musical gifts used, helped by the technology presented, and updated by many guest visitors and reports, therefore be it
- Resolved: That the Pacific Northwest District in Convention gives our heartfelt thanks to all these brothers and sisters in Christ, the faculty, staff, meal providers, musicians, and helpers for their efforts in support for the convention, whose love for Christ is the motive for their willing kingdom service.

