

Proceedings of the 50th Biennial Pacific Northwest District Convention

Held at Evergreen Lutheran High School, Tacoma, WA

June 14-15, 2016

Convention worship

Opening Worship with Holy Communion was held at 8:30 am. Martin Luther College Professor Tom Nass preached the sermon from Acts 10:43 under the theme ***All the Prophets Testify about the Forgiveness of Sins through Jesus' Name.*** Pastor Joel Hoff served as Presiding Minister. The offering gathered \$530.00.

Invocation

District President John Steinbrenner opened the convention at 10:10 am, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Reports

Attendance – 67 voting delegates (37 pastors, 13 teachers, 17 congregation delegates)

11 Excused: Pastor Ray Beckmann, Ellensburg, WA
Pastor Mark Cares, Truth In Love Ministries to Mormons, Nampa, ID
Pastor Ed Frey, Nampa, ID
Pastor Howie Mohlke, Nampa, ID
Pastor Joel Nitz, Lacey, WA
Pastor Bryan Schwarz, East Wenatchee, WA
Teacher Jason Kelley, Des Moines, WA
Teacher Mark Leitzke, Portland, OR
Teacher Bryan Schneck, Anchorage, AK
Delegate: Good Faith, South Cle Elum, WA
Delegate: Good Hope, Ellensburg, WA

26 Unexcused: Pastor Joe Johnson, Milwaukie, OR
25 Congregation Delegates

11 Visitors to the District Conference: Pastor James Huebner, WELS First Vice President
Professor Tom Nass, MLC, Convention Presenter
Mr. Sean Young, WELS Director of Missions Operations
Mr. Eric Krueger, NPH VP of Finance
Dr. Dan Johnson, WLC President
Pastor Ted Lambert, PNW DP emeritus
Pastor Phil Spaude, Ministry of Christian Giving
Mr. Warren Ehlke, PNW Representative for Synodical Council
Vicar Philip Janisch, Immanuel, Salem, OR
Pastor Peter Kruschel, WELS Mission Counselor serving the PNW
Mr. Ted Weiss, President of the PNWD-Kingdom Worker Team

16 New members to the district: Pastor Geoff Cortright, Saviour of the Nations, Vancouver, BC
Pastor Edward Frey, Messiah, Nampa, ID
Pastor James Getka, Evergreen LHS, Tacoma, WA
Pastor Noah Herrmann, Calvary, Bellevue, WA
Pastor Kevin Schultz, St. Matthew, Spokane, WA
Pastor Timothy Wilkens, King of Kings, Kennewick, WA
Pastor Ben Workentine, Cross of Christ, Boise, ID
Pastor Ben Zuberbier, Trinity, Eugene, OR
Principal Chris Hintz, Christ the King, Bremerton, WA
Principal Jason Kelley, Holy Trinity, Des Moines, WA
Principal Ted Klug, Evergreen LHS, Tacoma, WA
Principal Paul Leifer to Faith, Tacoma, WA
Principal Ryan Schmeling, Grace, Portland, OR
Teacher Geron Brown, Holy Trinity, Des Moines, WA
Teacher Brian Humann, Faith, Tacoma, WA
Teacher Jason Schleef, Immanuel, Salem, OR

Delegates and visitors rose and introduced themselves to the group.

Pastor James Huebner, First Vice President of WELS, addressed the convention with greetings from WELS Presidium, thanking and encouraging Gospel ministry.

Pastor John Steinbrenner, PNW District President, presented his report. During his report, he also mentioned thankfulness to the Lord for only two pastoral and only two teacher vacancies in the district. He also encouraged recruitment for future called workers, highlighted two new mission efforts in the PNW, and encouraged Congregation Mission Offerings. See report.

Comments from the floor regarding the printed RTTD: Delegates overwhelmingly preferred only a digital copy and do not desire a paper copy.

Pastor Rob Guenther, Chairman of the Elections Committee, explained the elections procedure. Nominations were then received for the position of District President.

Professor Tom Nass presented Part One of our study in the Word of God: "God Speaks to Us Through the Prophet Joel." The title of Part One: "...With messages of Law and Gospel." There was also discussion following.

The Nominating Committee presented the four nominees for District President: Pastor Gary Kraklow, Pastor David Salinas, Pastor Kevin Schultz, and Pastor John Steinbrenner. The convention voted.

Break for lunch (12:20 pm)

The conference reconvened at 1:10 pm.

The Elections Committee reported that Pastor John Steinbrenner was elected District President. Nominations were then received for the position of First Vice President.

Pastor James Huebner, First Vice President of WELS, addressed the convention, informing us of the presidium elections of other WELS districts.

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

The Nominating Committee presented the seven (three required, but there was a 5-way tie for third place) nominees for First Vice President: Pastor Thad Bitter, Pastor Gary Kraklow, Pastor Joel Nitz, Pastor Dave Salinas, Pastor Fred Schleg, Pastor Kevin Schultz, and Pastor Jeremy Schulz. The convention voted. The Nominating Committee reported that Pastor Joel Nitz was elected First Vice President. Nominations were then received for the position of Second Vice President.

Professor Tom Nass presented Part Two of our study in the Word of God: "God Speaks to Us Through the Prophet Joel." The title of Part Two: "...About calamity and repentance." There was also discussion following.

The Nominating Committee presented the four (three required, but there was a tie for third place) nominees for Second Vice President: Pastor Gary Kraklow, Pastor Dave Salinas, Pastor Fred Schleg, and Pastor Jeremy Schulz. The convention voted.

Break (3-3:15 pm)

The Elections Committee reported that Pastor Jeremy Schulz was elected Second Vice President. Nominations were then received for the position of District Secretary.

Pastor Daniel Lange (PNW CMSG: Worship Coordinator) presented the Hymnal Committee Video Report.

The Nominating Committee presented the three nominees for District Secretary: Pastor Rob Guenther, Pastor Gary Kraklow, and Pastor Dave Salinas. The convention voted.

Professor Tom Nass presented Part Three of our study in the Word of God: "God Speaks to Us Through the Prophet Joel." The title of Part Three: "...About the Holy Spirit and the Church." There was also discussion following.

The Elections Committee reported that there was no majority in the election for District Secretary. Another vote was taken with two nominees: Pastor Rob Guenther and Pastor Dave Salinas.

Break – (4:30-4:45 pm) During the break, Circuits met to elect Circuit Pastors.

Circuit Pastors:

- Alaska Circuit: Pastor Robert Guenther
- Geoduck Circuit: Pastor Fred Schleg
- Idaho Circuit: Pastor Daniel Kramer
- Oregon Circuit: Pastor Thad Bitter
- Rainier Circuit: Pastor David Birsching
- Sonshine Circuit: Pastor Bryan Schwarz

The Elections Committee reported that Pastor Robert Guenther was elected District Secretary.

Plenary Session was held for discussion of the RTTD. Pastor Fred Schleg led the discussion on the report from the Compensation Review Committee, pp. 73-79.

Closing devotion

Pastor Noah Herrmann closed the day's session with the service of Evening Meditation and a devotion based on Joel 2:12-14 and John 16:5-11: "*The Spirit of Repentance.*"

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Opening devotion

Pastor Noah Herrmann opened the conference day at 8:30 am with the service of Morning Meditation and a devotion based on Joel 2:28-32 and John 14:23-27: "*The Spirit of Prophecy.*"

The Elections Committee addressed the convention. Nominations were opened and closed for Mission Board Pastor (Pastor Brian Hackmann and Pastor Jason Strong), Mission Board Lay Leader (Mr. Augie Gabert), CMSG: Evangelism Coordinator (Pastor Ben Workentine and Pastor Noah Herrmann), Nominating Committee Alaska Conference Pastor (Pastor Brian Hackmann and Pastor Steve Wall), Nominating Committee Cascades Conference Teacher (Teacher Pat Cortright and Teacher Josh Roth), Board of Appeals Chairman Pastor (Pastor Jason Strong and Pastor Dan Kramer), Board of Appeals Teacher (Teacher Josh Roth and Teacher Jason Kelley), and Board of Appeals Layman (Mr. Don Schmeichel). A motion was made, seconded and passed to close nominations. A vote was taken for the position of Mission Board Pastor.

Plenary Session was held for discussion of the RTTD. Pastor Geoff Cortright led the discussion on the report from the Joint Statement Regarding the Termination of Fellowship, RTTD p. 23-25.

The Elections Committee reported that Pastor Brian Hackmann was elected as the Mission Board Pastor. A hand vote was taken for the position of Mission Board Lay Leader. Mr. Augie Gabert was elected. A vote was taken for the position of CMSG: Evangelism Coordinator.

Plenary Session was held for discussion of the RTTD. Pastor David Salinas led the discussion on the report from the Long Range Plan for 2018-2025, RTTD p. 70-73.

The Elections Committee reported that Pastor Ben Workentine was elected as CMSG: Evangelism Coordinator. Votes were taken for the position of Nominating Committee Alaska Conference Pastor and Nominating Committee Cascades Conference Teacher.

Break – (9:40-9:50 am)

The Elections Committee reported that Pastor Steve Wall was elected to the position of Nominating Committee Alaska Conference Pastor and Teacher Josh Roth was elected to the Nominating Committee Cascades Conference Teacher. A hand vote was taken for the position of Board of Appeals Layman, and Mr. Don Schmeichel was elected. Votes were taken for Board of Appeals Chairman Pastor and Board of Appeals Teacher.

Plenary Session was held for discussion of the RTTD. Pastor Matt Zimpelmann led the discussion on the report from Ministry of Christian Giving, Debt Elimination Update, Synod Sunday Encouraged, RTTD p. 26-28.

The Elections Committee reported that Pastor Jason Strong was elected to the position of Board of Appeals Chairman Pastor. A second vote was taken for Board of Appeals Teacher (runoff between Teacher Josh Roth and Teacher Jason Kelley).

Professor Tom Nass presented Part Four of our study in the Word of God: "God Speaks to Us Through the Prophet Joel." The title of Part Four: "...About the Day of the Lord." There was also discussion following.

District President Steinbrenner fielded PNW Feedback on the RTTD regarding: Compensation Review Committee (see Addendum). A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the feedback.

We then discussed the PNW Feedback on the RTTD regarding: Joint Statement Regarding the Termination of Fellowship (see Addendum). A motion was made, seconded and passed to send Option 1 as our statement.

We then discussed the PNW Feedback on the RTTD regarding: Long Range Plan for 2018-2025 (see Addendum). A motion was made, seconded and passed to send the feedback.

We then discussed the PNW Feedback on the RTTD regarding: Digital vs. Book versions of the RTTD (see Addendum). Consensus was given to approve the feedback.

We also discussed the District President Report Corrections and approved them with corrections by consensus (see revised DP Report).

The Elections Committee reported that Teacher Josh Roth was elected as Board of Appeals Teacher. 2016 Elections are concluded.

Pastor Craig Wasser, District Mission Board Chairman, addressed the convention. See report.

Pastor Peter Kruschel, Mission Counselor serving the PNW, addressed the convention.

Mr. Sean Young, WELS Director of Missions Operations, presented the WELS World Missions Report.

Break for lunch (12:15 pm)

The conference reconvened at 1:10 pm.

Mr. Eric Krueger, NPH VP of Finance, presented a report from Northwestern Publishing House and an update of the Reformation's 500th Anniversary celebration.

A few comments were offered by Principal Chris Hintz regarding the need to cancel our 2017 Fall Conference due to the WELS Reformation 500th Anniversary celebration. Some guidance was forwarded to the Fall Conference Planning Committee.

Prof. Tom Nass presented a verbal report on Ministerial Education. He encourages us to read the printed reports of our synod schools. He spoke of blessings, stability, and flat subsidy of the schools. He encouraged us to pray for God to provide future workers and to actively recruit future workers, as the best recruitment comes from parents, pastors and teachers.

Dr. Dan Johnson, President of Wisconsin Lutheran College, addressed the convention about WLC's purpose and encouragement to promote the college with our young people. He also showed a video about WLC.

Mr. Ted Weiss, President of the Pacific Northwest District – Kingdom Worker Team (PNWD-KWT), addressed the convention. See report.

Pastor Andy Schwartz addressed the convention as CMSG: Youth and Family Coordinator.

Pastor Tom Gumm addressed the convention as CMSG: Special Ministries Coordinator.

Principal Ted Klug gave a report on Evergreen Lutheran High School. See report. He encourages delegates and congregations to keep ELHS in prayer and to consider adding ELHS to congregational budgets.

Mr. Don Krueger, CEO of LACE (Lutheran Association for Church Extension), addressed the convention. Just this morning, LACE closed the refinanced loan with Evergreen Lutheran High School.

Pastor Daniel Lange encouraged attendance at the PNW WLS Satellite Course, July 11-13, with Prof. Sorum.

Pastor Andy Schwartz commented that 81 were in attendance at PNW Men's Retreat. He offered encouragement to attend in 2017.

Mr. Bob Gronlund addressed the convention encouraging prayers and gifts for Calvary Academy.

A vote was taken to designate the \$530 offering from the opening service to ELHS.

Pastor Jeremy Schulz presented the list of PNW delegates to the 2017 Synod Convention. The convention voted to ratify the list. Seconded. Passed. (see Addendum)

District President Steinbrenner presented the resolutions of thanks to the presenter and thanks to Evergreen Lutheran High School. Seconded. Passed. (see Addendum)

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. He then declared that the 50th Biennial PNW District Convention was now closed.

Closing

Pastor Noah Herrmann closed the day with the service of Midday Meditation and a devotion based on Joel 3:12-16 and John 16:12-16: "*The Spirit of Judgment.*" The District Presidium and Circuit Pastors were installed.

Addendum

RTTD – PNW DISTRICT FEEDBACK regarding: Compensation Review Committee

Our feedback comes in the form of some questions that may assist the Compensation Review Committee.

- While “ending rates after 22 years” is an attempt at extending more Calls to older workers, might it actually discourage older workers from accepting them?
- Might the “ending rates after 22 years” discourage workers from considering Synodically-funded positions?
- Might “ending rates after 22 years” negatively affect recruitment into ministry (i.e. parents and/or students realize there is a “ceiling” of sorts “in this line of work”)?
- If taking only a “22 year segment” of the matrix is a goal of the Committee, has there been consideration in looking at a different cross section that more adequately reflects “double honor” (i.e. 5-27 years or 10-32 years)?
- Could the “ending rates after 22 years” formula drive a gap between those Synodically-funded and self-supporting Calling bodies (i.e. one is “stuck in a formula” while self-supporting bodies have freedom to increase compensation; could cause seasoned professors and gifted administrators to leave these offices simply because of varying compensation, etc.)?
- If the issue is for Calling bodies to extend Calls to older workers – instead of “freezing salaries with the matrix” might the DP’s also consider more clearly listing the strengths, skills and practical implications of a worker’s experience on Call Lists? (this could include encouragements to better fill out assessments, a potential “check box” for those workers willing to “serve for less,” encouragements to Calling bodies to use more experienced workers, etc.)

Some expressed the thought that the current guidelines work well. Perhaps the GREATEST ASSET to this process could be the “Synod Code Tool” that assists Calling bodies in better arriving at more accurate and consistent compensation numbers for Called workers.

With gratitude, the PNW acknowledges the Compensation Review Committee’s ongoing work and readily confesses that this is a challenging task to find formulas that address every concern and fit every Calling body.

RTTD – PNW DISTRICT FEEDBACK regarding: Joint Statement Regarding the Termination of Fellowship

Option 1 – The PNW District accepts the “Joint Statement on Termination of Fellowship” with thanks and without debate.

RTTD – PNW DISTRICT FEEDBACK regarding: Long Range Plan for 2018-2025

Great appreciation was expressed for this Committee’s work with the encouragements for overall greater evangelism emphasis and training for personal witnessing as we look ahead to the next decade.

RTTD – PNW DISTRICT FEEDBACK regarding: Digital vs. Book versions of the RTTD

Great appreciation was expressed for the RTTD’s availability online in early May. General sentiment was that there is no longer a need for the costly printing and shipping of the book version of RTTD. (At our Convention, the vast majority of the book copies are being recycled because they have gone unclaimed.)

PNW Delegates to 2017 Synod Convention

Updated 5/31/2016

Pastors (4)

Delegates 2017:

1. Jim Getka
2. Ed Frey
3. Joe Johnson
4. Andy Schwartz

Alternates 2017:

1. Joel Nitz
2. Matt Zimpelmann
3. Fred Schleg
4. Kevin Schultz

Teachers/Staff Ministers (2)

Delegates 2017:

1. Thomas Zarnstorff
2. Jason Kelley

Alternates 2017:

1. Joshua Roth
2. Chris Hintz

Congregations (7)

Delegates 2017:

1. St Paul, Tacoma
2. Shepherd of the Hills, Anchorage
3. Trinity, Coos Bay
4. Trinity, Eugene
5. Beautiful Savior, Corvallis
6. Beautiful Savior, Hillsboro
7. Faith, Tacoma

Alternates 2017:

1. Gethsemane, Tigard
2. Grace, Zillah
3. Immanuel, Salem
4. Living Hope, Redmond
5. Peace, Vancouver
6. Christ the King, Bremerton
7. Divine Peace, Renton

2016 Elections Summary

District President: Pastor John Steinbrenner

1st Vice President: Pastor Joel Nitz

2nd Vice President: Pastor Jeremy Schulz

District Secretary: Pastor Robert Guenther

Alaska Circuit — Circuit Pastor: Pastor Robert Guenther

Geoduck Circuit — Circuit Pastor: Pastor Fred Schleg

Idaho Circuit — Circuit Pastor: Pastor Daniel Kramer

Oregon Circuit — Circuit Pastor: Pastor Thad Bitter

Rainier Circuit — Circuit Pastor: Pastor David Birsching

Sonshine Circuit — Circuit Pastor: Pastor Bryan Schwarz

Mission Board Pastor: Pastor Brian Hackmann

Mission Board Lay Leader: Mr. Augie Gabert

CMSG: Evangelism Coordinator: Pastor Benjamin Workentine

Nominating Committee Alaska Conference Pastor: Pastor Steven Wall

Nominating Committee Cascades Conference Teacher: Teacher Joshua Roth

Board of Appeals Layman: Mr. Don Schmeichel

Board of Appeals Chairman Pastor: Pastor Jason Strong

Board of Appeals Teacher: Teacher Joshua Roth

Resolutions of the 50th Biennial Pacific Northwest District Convention

Resolution No. 1

Subject: Thanks to Our Presenters

- WHEREAS 1) The Pacific Northwest District delegates in convention have been nourished by the Gospel in Word and sacrament, and
- WHEREAS 2) we have been faithfully led in our study of the Scriptures, and
- WHEREAS 3) our devotion and worship leaders have reminded us of the precious promises of our gracious God, and
- WHEREAS 4) our reporters have diligently led us through the *Report to the Twelve Districts* and our committees have served faithfully in their fulfilling their responsibilities, therefore be it
- Resolved: a) that the Pacific Northwest District express our thanks to the Lord of the Church for his precious gospel promises, and be it further
- Resolved: b) that we express our appreciation for our guest preacher, Prof. Tom Nass, and our devotion leader, Pastor Noah Herrmann, and be it finally
- Resolved: c) that we thank Prof. Tom Nass for our study in the book of Joel, our reporters, coordinators and committees for their service.

Resolution No. 2

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) the members of Christ the King, Holy Trinity, and Divine Peace Lutheran congregations have worked to provide the delegates with meals and snacks, and
- WHEREAS 4) the pages, Caleb Eliason and Erik Lund, have faithfully worked to help the convention run smoothly, therefore be it
- Resolved: a) that the Pacific Northwest District in Convention gives our heartfelt thanks to all these brothers and sisters in Christ, the faculty, staff, meal providers, and pages for their efforts in support for the convention, whose love is the motive for their willing kingdom service.