

PROCEEDINGS & MINUTES
42ND PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
2009 EQUIPPING CONFERENCE AND DISTRICT CONVENTION
FRIDAY, JUNE 26TH TO TUESDAY, JUNE 30TH
HYATT REGENCY, IRVINE, CALIFORNIA

EQUIPPING CONFERENCE

The Pacific Southwest District 2009 Equipping Conference began Friday evening, June 26th, with a meaningful opening celebration led by Rev. Greg Seltz, Concordia University, Irvine. Gathering around the theme of "Inviting Conversations - Empowering Words" based on John 17:20 ["(Jesus said) *I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me, through their word,....*" - ESV] pastors and members of district congregations, convention delegates, families and friends were inspired by Rev. Dr. Dien Taylor's presentation, "Listen, God is Calling." Having experience, as pastor of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bronx, New York, in dealing with 25 different cultural groups, Dr. Taylor challenged the hearers "to be active in listening to learn how to share", for only by listening is one able to then apply the truth of God's love and share the Gospel. He emphasized that we are recipients of God's grace called to share that grace. Having the principles is not the key; the key is using those principles to be like God, who is a shaker, a doer, a mover. Dr. Taylor reminded those in attendance that we were here tonight to know that we've been chosen by God to listen, love, and learn from others, and live engaged, connected in conversation. After all, the goal of conversation is for conversion.

Saturday morning, June 27th, Rev. Greg Seltz, began the second day of the Equipping Conference, reminding attendees that we, as Lutherans, have a sacramental certainty - we taste it in bread and wine; we feel it in the water of Baptism; we smell it in the aroma of incense - therefore, we can dive in and share with others. We are able to do this because of the Christ confidence (the confidence in and about Christ); in other words, I have something that is different in my life from others, and God will use our weakness and strengths to engage in conversations. Some points to remember - we can't be what we aren't, but trying shows we care; the Gospel re-packages us (jars of clay), we don't re-package the Gospel, because Jesus is not only the message, He is the methodology.

The Conference Planning Team, consisting of Mrs. Connie Schramm, Rev. Greg Seltz, Rev. Glen Lucas, Mrs. Donna Lucas, Mr. John Randall and Mr. Rob Blaney were introduced and acknowledged. Following which, the second plenary speaker, Rev. John Nunes, President and CEO of Lutheran World Relief, was welcomed and spoke to the conference attendees developing the theme, "One Prayer for One World." In his presentation, Rev. Nunes, noted that people of prayer are often 'profiled, mislabeled' as non-active and bland Christians - like oatmeal without brown sugar and/or raisins. He pointed out that prayer is not only preparation for the battle (spiritual), but is the battle itself. Referring to the Lord's Prayer, Rev. Nunes indicated that at the very start "Our...." is a relationship word, and implies relationships throughout the world. It is plural, beyond gender and race, and certainly doesn't divide us from one another. Christ's prayer to us is filled with plural references - give us, forgive us (not only personal, but also broader social problems), lead us, deliver us. We should carry this over to some well known hymns - *Blessed Assurance Jesus is Mine* - no, "ours;" *Amazing Grace.....saved a wretch like me* - no, save "the rest" like me. He also shared that for too long the church has been the 'thermostat' measures states; rather the church needs to be 'the thermometer' setting the trend. A key concept follows the word: DIVERSITY -

- D - different
- I - individuals
- V - valuing
- E - each other
- R - regardless of
- S - skin
- I - intelligence
- T - talents
- Y - years

Three 1½ sessions devoted to equipping congregations, church leadership, and members, around the convention theme of "Inviting Conversations-Empowering Words," filled the latter part of Saturday morning and then into afternoon sessions.

The evening plenary event was an amazing display of artistry, focusing on *Seeking God in the Age of Distraction*, presented by Mr. Ben Glenn. Mr. Glenn, diagnosed with dyslexia and later with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADHD), from childhood into adulthood, shared his own journey in story and fabulous chalk drawings (actually drawing with both hands at the same time). Ben Glenn's strong witness through word and art clearly demonstrated God's sustaining love and presence in the lives of His people.

Sunday morning, June 28th, was highlighted by the plenary session led by Rev. Victor Belton, Atlanta, GA, a member of Synod's Board of Directors. His theme, *In the Face of Christ*, pointed to His call of "come, follow Me." In responding to Christ's call, we are assured of His presence, of Him putting the inviting words and conversations in our mouths. Simply, we are not here for ourselves, we need to be listening, for God is calling us.

2009 DISTRICT CONVENTION

The Pacific Southwest District Convention opened on Sunday morning, June 28th, to the glory of God, with a worship and communion service, which began with a Procession of Flags, representing the various ethnic groups present in the district. Dr. Carol McDaniel, Bethany Lutheran Church, Long Beach, CA, directed the Convention Celebration Choir, and the Rev. Dr. Jack Preus, President of Concordia University, Irvine, CA, was the preacher for the service. Dr. Preus' sermon text was John 4, revisiting the convention theme in the discussion Jesus had with the Samaritan woman at the well; emphasizing that her simple conversation with her fellow townspeople brought them to Christ. Our words, too, are empowered by the Holy Spirit, inviting and introducing people to Jesus Christ.

Session I - Sunday afternoon, June 28, 2009

President Larry Stoterau welcomed delegates and introduced the afternoon's convention schedule. Convention Chaplain, and Pacific Southwest District's 1st Vice President, Rev. Roger Sonnenberg told a story about a current "Samaritan Woman" with whom he had contact. What she wanted was someone who would know all about her and be there for her. She "listened" and heard about her Savior, Jesus Christ. She was reminded of a God who loved her so much that He gave His Son for her, for all of the things she was struggling with in her life. Pastor Sonnenberg closed with the delegates singing "I Love to Tell the Story."

The 42nd Regular Pacific Southwest District Convention was called to order by President Larry Stoterau at 2:22 p.m. He again welcomed delegates and guests, and introduced those who were on the platform: Rev. James Hallmann, District Secretary; Mr. Russ Havemann, Parliamentarian; Rev. Chris Schaar, Chair of Convention Committee; Mr. Dennis Schaar, Timekeeper; Rev. John Zeile, Vice-Chair Convention Committee; Mackenzie and Zach, Youth/Pages.

Registration Report

Rev. Glenn Lucas, Registrar, reported on both conference & convention attendance

- 244 - Equipping Conference
- 125 - Pastors
- 133 - Lay
- 258 - Voting Delegates
- Advisory - 61
- Guests - 55

President's Report

Delegates heard from Rev. Dr. Larry Stoterau, District President, his report to the convention enhancing and expanding on the theme of "Inviting Conversations - Empowering Words." After referring to his report in the Convention Workbook (pgs. 33-36), he used the framework of David Olson "Crises in the American Church;" pointing to the concerns, highlighted by the fact that in the Pacific Southwest District over half of our congregations worship around 100 people or less; 10% of the congregations worship over 100; and many are plagued by the "if only" syndrome.

We are challenged and energized by the fact that we have God's blessings and the opportunities to do the work in God's kingdom. Of the 16 vacant congregations in the district, only 6 are calling, 7 are served by interim pastors, others by a variety of pastoral support. President Stoterau encouraged prayers for God's blessings on us as we seek to fulfill His will for us and our district.

Rev. Dr. Gerald (Jerry) Kieschnick, President of the LCMS, & his wife, Terry, were introduced by President Stoterau. Purple sheets of paper were provided to write down questions for the Q & A with President Kieschnick.

Reception of New Member Congregations

Congregations new in our district since the 2006 District Convention were introduced. The names were read by secretary, Rev. Jim Hallmann. The representatives of these congregations were asked to stand as they were introduced:

Centro Cristiano Hispano Lutheran Church, Santa Paula, CA
Christ Lutheran Church, Vail, AZ
Ethiopian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Long Beach, CA
Fountain of Life Lutheran Church, La Mirada, CA
Grace Community Lutheran Church, Rimrock, AZ
One Faith Korean Lutheran Church, Irvine, CA
Light of Life Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA
Living Water Lutheran Church, Buckeye, AZ
Medhanialem Ethiopian Lutheran Fellowship, San Diego, CA
Oromo Lutheran Church, Beverly Hills, CA
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Safford, AZ
Palabra De Dios Lutheran Church, Maywood, CA
Peace Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, NV
Trinity Lutheran Church, Norwalk, CA

President Stoterau went through a sample exercise to acquaint delegates with the electronic voting machines and process. A number of questions were posed, resulting in the following responses:

- 36% of the delegates were first time attendees at a district convention
- 27% of the delegates had attended the current Equipping Conference; 53% had not
- In planning for future conventions 55% of the delegates preferred the Sunday through Tuesday schedule

Adoption of the Standing Rules of the Day

The Standing Rules (WorkBook, p. 10) were reviewed by President Stoterau for adoption. It required a 2/3 majority to pass - **Yes - 96.8 %** **No - 3.2 %** --- Standing Rules adopted.

Nominations Committee

Rev. Lowell Kindschy, Chair of Election Committee called everyone's attention to the Who's Who information sheet, and the District Bylaws. He reviewed the new Bylaw - stating how the district president is to be elected; pointing out that this nomination process was extended by the Board of Directors to provide time for every congregation the opportunity to nominate.

Rev. Rich Dannenbring, made the following motion: "I move that we amend the convention schedule this afternoon so that each of the candidates for District President may address the entire convention. Each candidate would be given ten minutes to share their vision for the district. Then a twenty minute question and answer period for the assembly moderated by 1st Vice President Roger Sonnenberg, after which the assembly would vote. This time framework would begin at 3:45 p.m." The motion was seconded, following with Rev. Dannenbring presenting the rationale for this motion: 1) our district has many new pastors who do not know either yourself (Rev. Dr. Larry Stoterau) or Rev. Dr. Kevin Wyssmann; 2) the lay delegates would have a chance to get to know both candidates (both pastoral and lay delegates would be better informed as they cast their ballots; 3) according to the Lutheran Annual we have lost over 6,000 confirmed members in the past four years in our district; and 4) as a district we face a financial crisis due to the economic situation in which we find ourselves and it is important that we, as the delegates, know how each candidate will handle this challenge. After several speakers addressed this motion, the vote was taken.

Motion passed - Yes - 61.4% No - 38.6%

The orders of the day would be adjusted to accommodate this motion.

Chair, Rev. Lowell Kindschy, mentioned that nominations for other positions can be made from the floor, however the appropriate consent and informational forms need to be completed.

Resolutions Floor Committee

Rev. Kevin Kritzer, Chair, Resolutions Floor Committee, and it members came forward.

Omnibus Resolution A (WB, p. 18)

Encourage Congregations to use Stewardship Education Resources (referred to District office); Establish a Task Force for Ministry to and with People with Disabilities (referred to Board of Directors), and Encourage Circuits to Organize For Mission Support (referred to Pacific Southwest District). The Floor Committee moved for adoption.

Delegate vote: passed - Yes - 89.9% No - 10.1%

Omnibus Resolution B (WB, p. 18)

To Preserve Current Article II of the Constitution of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod: To Confront Militant Atheism in the Public Arena. The committee agreed to eliminate the second part of the resolution as this is limited to as specific program/study by only two congregation.

There was a correction in line 37. It should read Unprinted Overture 12 (not 10). The Committee moved adoption. A motion was made (Rev. Jeff Springer, Trinity, Whittier) amending Omnibus Resolution B, to remove resolution 12 from this resolution and refer it back to the Floor Committee for review.

Delegate vote on amendment passed - Yes - 51.3% No - 48.7%

Delegate vote on Omnibus Resolution B as amended: passed - Yes - 85.3% No - 14.7%

Resolution # 01

(ref: District Overture 01, WB p. 1)

TO: Restructure the District Mission Committee

The resolution was read and the committee moved adoption; there was no one speaking to this motion.

Delegate vote: passed - Yes - 81.3% No - 18.7%

Resolution # 02

(ref: District Overture 02, WB p. 1)

TO: Improve the Nomination Process for District Offices

The resolution was read and the committee moved adoption. A question was asked as to whether or not this

negates floor nominations - no, it doesn't, nor will it discourage new ideas and/or nominees. The resolution came about because of the difficulty in getting new and talented people into district positions.

Delegate vote: passed - Yes - 72.1% No - 27.9%

Resolution # 03

(ref: District Overture 04, WB pgs. 2-10)

TO: Realign the Circuits of the Pacific Southwest District

The resolution was read and the committee moved adoption.

A motion was made....." to amend Resolution # 03, that Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Lake Havasu, AZ, be removed from the realigned Circuit # 25, and returned to Circuit # 31." Seconded:

Delegate vote: passed - Yes - 83.3% No - 16.7%

The Committee was thanked and dismissed, and will be called to return to convention floor at a later time.

Election Committee

District President

The Convention now followed the new order of the day. The two presidential candidates were called on to share their visions for the district. Vice President Roger Sonnenberg moderated the presentations by Rev. Dr. Kevin Wyssmann and the incumbent President Rev. Dr. Larry Stoterau. This was followed by a 20 minute question and answer period.

- 1) Is there anything wrong in our district office; Answer - nothing other than being short handed; what is wrong, is that congregations are not supporting the ministry being carried out in the district.
- 2) Status of schools and congregations; Answer - less and less of congregations having kids in school and how can it be addressed, since there is the financial concern - whether or not to mortgage the church/property to keep the school operating.
- 3) It is understood that Rev. Dr. Stoterau is currently serving as VP of Council Of Presidents and was recently elected as Chairman of the COP; Answer - in the past the Chair was elected in September with the new DP's, but they wouldn't know who to elect, so 6 years ago the COP decided to elect their Chairman in April, with the understanding that if he is not reelected in his district, he would not be able to serve.
- 4) Question asked about educational background as one of the candidates has what seems to be inaccurate information on the LCMS website; Answer - the LCMS website printed exactly what was submitted.
- 5) What is the stand of our district with regard to missions; Answer - that it should be involved in the process. Both pastors felt that this is a key area. There are 50 covenant congregations that have been identified. Mission Councils have been doing a good job of stewardship.
- 6) What do you know about "inner city"; Answer - KW: Gilbert, AZ, is hardly an inner city setting, starting a mission - would need to defer to the experts.
- 7) Style of leadership; Answer - LS: enabling and equipping people for ministry and setting them free; buck stops here at my desk.....bend over backwards to accomplish; hands off because I want them to be hands on. Answer - KW: collaborative worker, work with groups to achieve goals, agrees that "buck stops" at the DP's desk.
- 8) Transforming tier - plans and familiarity with; Answer - very much supportive of being a support to congregations refocusing and re-energizing
- 9) Pastor to church workers in the larger context; Answers - LS: certainly include all workers in being that pastoral support. KW: has had several vicars; respect & working with DCE's, etc.

The convention delegates returned to the orders of the day; Rev. Lowell Kindschy, Chair, Election Committee presented the ballot for district president, and chaplain, Rev. Roger Sonnenberg, convention chaplain, offer a prayer prior to the election process.

President Stoterau was re-elected by a majority - 66.5%; Rev. Dr. Kevin Wyssmann receiving - 33.5%. President Larry Stoterau acknowledged his being re-elected and brought up "his partner in ministry," his wife, Linda.

District Officers and Boards

Rev. Lowell Kindschy, Chair, Elections Committee, asked for any floor nominations for the remaining district positions. These were the floor nominations:

Vice Presidents - by Regions

Rev. Elroi Reimnitz for Region 1

Secretary and Treasurer

None

Board of Directors Commissioned and Lay by Region

None

Board of Directors LCEF Committee Chair

None

Committee on Constitutions - Ordained & Lay

None

CU I Board of Regents - Ordained, Commissioned & Lay

None

Information will be provided by tomorrow for voting.

Resolutions Floor Committee

Called Floor Committee back - Rev. Kevin Kritzer, Chair, and the Resolution Floor Committee were called back to the platform.

Resolution # 03 - was reintroduced

(ref: District Overture 04, WB pgs. 2-10)

A motion was made..... "to remove Circuits # 31 & 32, from consideration in this resolution, and since they are circuits meeting together, they work out the configuration," the motion failed to stand, for a lack of a second.

Resolution # 03, as amended previously, moved, seconded.

Passed - Yes - 94.2% No - 5.8%; with two corrections - in Circuit # 14, should be Bethel Lutheran, Buena Park, not Bethany; in Circuit # 27, should be St. Mark Lutheran, Phoenix, not St. Matthew.

The secretary will follow up with all circuits regarding the new congregations welcomed and accepted at this convention; specifically Circuit # 6, to ascertain and advise what congregations are duly constituted (a variance between 15 reported and 23 thought to exist).

Announcements

- Board of Directors are asked to meet in the Board Room - 7:30 am, Monday, June 29th
- Offering from this morning's worship amounted to \$ 2,749, which will be directed to a new mission start in the district.

The session concluded with the singing of "Be Thou My Vision" led by Dr. Carol McDaniel, and prayer led by Vice President Rev. Roger Sonnenberg. Session I adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Session II - Sunday Evening, June 28, 2009

The Memorial/Jubilarian Service of Evening Prayer was celebrated. Worshipers heard a message from Synodical President, Rev. Dr. Jerry Kieschnick. His text was from Titus, chapter 3:3 - 8; emphasizing our responsibility to let the life and light of Christ be reflected in our lives, in all areas and everywhere we go. Doing this, that people might see what it is that gives us hope; even when life is just so "overwhelming." In this way too, we are engaged in "inviting conversations and empowering words."

Those faithfully departed servants remembered included: Robert Bentz; Earl Bielefeld, Ken Christensen; Raymond Fellers; Calvin Fiege; Stuart Firnhaber; Paul Guebert; Ken Fuerbringer; Roger Hedstrom; Vern Hinz; Ron Juenel; Marin Keck; Jack Keenan; Glenn Koch; Soo Min Lee; Martin Mayer; Robert Mittelstaedt; Elmer Reimnitz; Victor Rico; Robert Shaller; Richard Schinnerer; Ed Westcott, Jr.; George Winterstein; Orlin Wraalstad, and Edward Zimbrick.

Session III - Monday Morning, June 29, 2009

Students from Concordia University, Irvine, CA, led the convention delegates in singing and began the morning session. President Stoterau opened the session at 8:29 a.m., calling upon the day's chaplain, Vice President, Rev. Richard Dannenbring. Sharing the convention theme (note the play on the three letters - N, O, and W), he emphasized that we are WON by God's love in Christ to be His OWN.....and the reason we have been won to be his own is that we are His NOW, and NOW is the moment not only to live for Him, but to experience His love in this very moment, to have the only hope that is ours. The morning devotion concluded with prayers.

Announcements

President Stoterau reminded the delegates that the convention needs to make up some time; therefore, break times will be a stretch time rather than a full break. We will also be adjusting the afternoon schedule for the Missions Report at approximately 5:00 p.m., and then go through to 6:30 p.m., having the evening free. The President's Reception Fellowship is at 8:00, not 9:00 p.m.

Clayton and Anna - youth delegates, were introduced and welcomed to the platform.

President Kieschnick's Report

President Larry Stoterau, introduced Synod President, Rev. Dr. Jerry Kieschnick, who, in turn acknowledged President Stoterau's role as chair of the Council of Presidents, a member of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance, (BRTFSSG) and recent appointment as chair of Floor Committee 8, which will present the BRTFSSG's recommendations to next year's National Convention.

Dr. Kieschnick indicated that he will have attended 23 of the 35 district conventions, and regrets that he is not able to attend all of the conventions, nor spend a lot of time with the conventions that he is able to attend.

He mentioned that his report was in two parts - a video presentation and then the Q/A section.

Our church has always been affected by controversies, whether minor or major (theological, doctrinal); however, the LCMS is exceptionally united in what we believe, teach, and confess - the person of the Trinity, and the work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; justification by faith being the chief doctrine by which the church either stands or falls.

We are not arguing over or debating about the central doctrines of our Christian Faith, which others are. Undeniably, we, as a synod, are blessed with unity and harmony. There are some areas still of concern and discussion: administration of Holy Communion; service of women in what roles/capacities; proper forms of worship and their perspectives on uniformity and diversity; inter-Christian relationships (confessional, evangelical, etc.), specifically with other Christian church bodies without unionism, or denying our confessional stance.

Delegates then saw the video portion, highlighting the following:

One Mission - the musical, "The Music Man" was mentioned as an example - the city needed a boys band, and the music man successfully showed that the pool hall was trouble, and therefore to avoid the trouble, they needed to establish a band. Our trouble is a decline of Christian belief, and the non-Christian climate in our communities; we've become numb, apathetic, and desensitized to what is going on - values declining, homosexuality, drug/alcohol/pornography. People are on the fast track to hell - feeling that nothing can be done. How we respond is critical - this is our one mission.

One Message - It is critical that we respond with a word of HOPE; that being a hope in Jesus Christ, seeing that we live in a time of "Babylonian Captivity" and also ask how we address that culture - Jeremiah 29:4-7. We need to engage our culture - where we reside (examples given of Memorial Lutheran Church, Katy, TX - The Christ Clinic; Hales Corner Lutheran Church - Hales Corner, WI, partnering to be more than we can be individually; Peace Lutheran Church, Racine, WI; Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - "His love is here for you.") "One People - Forgiven" - theme of 2010 Synod Convention - focusing on reconciliation and renewal.

One People - The one message, one mission has as its goal - bringing all people into His kingdom, which certainly is the focus of the Ablaze movement. God's Word is both missional and confessional (example given of St. John Lutheran, Newhall, IA, finding lost sheep - being compassionate and caring about their neighbor, worrying about those who don't know Christ; bringing someone to Jesus as their Savior).

Focus of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure & Governance is to bring about an efficiency, etc. in sharing the saving Gospel.

Question and Answer Section - moderated by Ms. Connie Schramm, Convention Committee

- 1) There are rumors that Synod is on a road to financial ruin - Answer: This is false, but certainly there are financial challenges. Funding comes from 2 sources - designated and undesignated monies (\$81 million; \$19 million from undesignated & \$62 million from designated) which go toward the budget. The Board of Directors adopted a balanced budget - hiring and salary freezes, cutting costs without impacting the actual delivery of services; and the BRTFSSG is recommending reducing duplications of services.
- 2) Dying and failing churches are being helped in the Pacific Southwest District. What is happening within Synod re: revitalization of congregations? - Answer: This is all a part of the Ablaze movement. Help is on the way, but it needs to be asked for, it is not coming from the top down to the congregations.
- 3) There is another rumor, that there is a movement to cease all cooperation with the ELCA if they adopt the sexuality statement which blesses those ordained pastors living in a committed same gender relationship. - Answer: It is what it is - a rumor.....also, always check with your District Office. The ELCA is being asked why are you even thinking of this? Their thought and focus - Promiscuous nature of those relationships as opposed to the life long commitment; Dr. Kieschnick is asking to be shown a Scripture passage where any of that is indicated - the response has been silence. Any future decisions as to the LCMS & ELCA relationship will need to be made by a larger group - not just the Synod President, thus we, as a synod, continues to and will, meet with ELCA. Although it was determined that the ELCA is unorthodox, we still want to continue to reach out with love, care, and concern.
- 4) An individual wants to have a sex change procedure, and then wants to remain in his marital relationship; does Scripture have anything to say about that? - Answer: this is dealing with an area of life that hasn't been addressed before, and realizing that there are many other issues of life that we do need to face as a church body, this and others need to be directed to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, for study, comment, and/or recommendation.

- 5) What are your goals, desires for education, etc., at the Lutheran Center in Wittenberg, Germany? - Answer: Paul King, CPH; Rev. Matt Harrison, Human Care & World Relief, Rev. Bob Roegner, World Missions, as founders, established a Supervisory Board, consisting of 3 German partners and 4 from the LCMS. After four years, nothing has been done/accomplished except a building has been purchased. It needs to be restored (approximately \$4 million), funds have not been raised. Consequently, a new board has been established, and they have been asked to develop a sustainable plan.
- 6) What can we intentionally pray for you and for our LCMS? - Answer: for me, professionally - humility, wisdom, discernment. The greatest concern in office of the President that I see the best and the worse of situations and of people. Pray for my ability to make godly decisions & communicate them lovingly; personally - for family, don't try to disappoint people - for Terry and other women in my office that what they hear and see doesn't negatively affect their relationship with the Lord and His Church. For our LCMS, that we continue to be a confessional, evangelical Church body in a hostile environment; and while, at times, the struggle with events that would give an appearance of unionism be recognized as differences, however, also remembering that we are all a part of the body of Christ.

Dr. Kieschnick ended the question and answer time by sharing responses to a couple of questions usually asked:

- 1) What, only one thing, would you change within Synod? - Answer: remove the spirit of hostility, rumor-mongering, communications of blogs/etc., party spirit; and, instead instill a genuine struggle with issues, not with/about power; but what does Scripture say about these matters?
- 2) What about the future of the LCMS? - Answer: high on our church body's future, and excited about what is happening in the LCMS. Dr. Kieschnick indicated meeting incredible lay men/women, and being deeply impressed by the caliber of the people; it is phenomenal! He has also met pastors - theological trained, blessings among their people, and dealing with challenging times (unfortunately, not respected as they once were); likewise, he was impressed by the qualifications and caliber of our commissioned ministers. It is an exciting time, for over the years, and for whatever reason, we have discovered our God in such a unique way (the theology of the cross) - which God has given to us/this church. May we continue to be confessional and evangelical, humbly, lovingly, sincerely, sharing that with the world.

Dr. Kieschnick received a standing applause/recognition, and was given Ben Glenn's chalk drawing. The previous evening the drawing was opened to a silent bid, which awarded the drawing to an anonymous donation of \$ 1,000. However, the anonymous recipient donated it to the International Center. Mr. Glenn advised that the drawing really can't be shipped, and since he would be in St. Louis in the near future, he would go to the International Center, and create the drawing live, there. It will also have a plaque describing the mission work of the Pacific Southwest District. The first chalk drawing was then awarded to the person with the second highest bid in the previous night's silent auction.

Following a brief break, delegates reconvened with singing led by the students of Concordia University. President Larry Stoterau reminded the delegates that voting machines need to remain at the place where they have been assigned. One is missing (R-66), and a request to advisory delegates, that they please don't sit where delegates are supposed to; another request to convention delegates - please avoid reaching over and using a vacant machine.

Rev. Glenn Lucas, Convention Registrar, updated the convention registration numbers:

Pastoral Delegates	166	Advisory Delegates	91
Lay Delegates	<u>155</u>	Guests	<u>69</u>
Total Voting	321	Total Non-Voting	160

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 481

Convention Chaplain, Rev. Rich Dannenbring, prayed for a family member of a delegate who perished yesterday in an auto accident.

Elections

Rev. Lowell Kindschy, Election Committee, asked the delegates to please refer to Who's Who & Floor Nomination Information materials. Elections were held for the following offices and positions:

Vice President - Region I

Lowell Kindschy - 56.1% - elected

Jess Knauft

Elroi Reimnitz

Vice President - Region II

Doug Johnstone - 16.8%

Kevin Kritzer - 22.3%

Roger Sonnenberg - 60.9% - elected

Vice President - Region III

Richard Dannenbring - 62.7% - elected

Robert Dargatz - 27.3%

Eric Kaelbarer - 10.0%

Vice President - Region IV

	1 st ballot-no election	2 nd ballot-no election	3 rd ballot
David Bolte -	33.8%	49.1%	53.6% - elected
David Brinkman -	13.7%	-----	
Vince Harman -	18.0%	14.5%	-----
Allan Rosnau -	34.6%	36.4%	46.4%

Secretary - **Rev. Jim Hallmann**

By voice - ratification of vote - **Yes - 100%**

Treasurer - **Diana Alexander**

By voice - ratification of vote - **Yes - 100%**

Board of Directors

Commissioned Ministers

Region I - **Bonnie Hicks**

By voice - ratification of vote - **Yes - 95.7%**

No - 4.3%

Region II - **James Prill**

By voice - ratification of vote - **Yes - 100%**

Region III

Mark Mann - 38.6%

Steve Schedler - 61.4% - elected

Region IV

Dr. William Luedtke - 41.9%

Steve Buuck - 58.1% - elected

Board of Directors

Lay

Region I - **Beverly Tietjen**

By voice - ratification of vote - **Yes - 100%**

Region II

Dennis Coburn - 31.2%

Esther Jow - 68.8% - elected

Region III

Dr. Michael Lange - 61.8% - elected

Rudiger Stuhlmuller - 38.2%

Region IV

C. William Christian - 28.3%

Ellen Knowlton - 71.7% - elected

Board of Directors

LCEF Committee Chair/Representative - **Julian Fruhling**

By voice - ratification of vote - **Yes - 100%**

Committee on Constitutions - Ordained (need to vote for 2 - vote for one the first time, one the second time)

James Brockman - elected

Tom Hendry

John Sauer - elected

Committee on Constitutions - Lay (need to vote only for 1)

Troy Norton - 72.4% - elected

Brian Percy - 23.0%

Blaine Wanke - 4.6%

Concordia University, Irvine - Board of Regents - Ordained

Robert Dargatz - 52.5% - elected

Mike Gibson - 35.4%

James Henkell - 12.1%

Concordia University, Irvine - Board of Regents - Commissioned

Dr. Mary Fink - 57.7% - elected

Xavria Schwarz - 42.3%

Concordia University, Irvine - Board of Regents - Lay (need to vote for 2 - vote for one the first time, one the second time)

John Friend - elected

Lori Knapp

Peter Lee

Dr. Audrey Williams - elected

Nominations Committee for the 2012 PSW District Convention
Ordained

Region I

Dietrich Schleef - 61.9% - elected
Rexford Ueberhaur III - 38.2%

Region II

Patrick Jow
Dustin Parker - elected

Region III

Wiley Smith - 41.8%
Bill Vogelsang - 48.1% - elected

Region IV

Tom Daily
By voice - ratification of vote - **Yes - 91.6%**
No - 8.4%

Commissioned

Region I

Nancy Durkovic - 52.8% - elected
John Henke - 47.2%

Region II

Terri Chow - 42.9%
Jo Felton - 57.1% - elected

Region III

Brandon Heath - 59.5% - elected
Jenny Jordan - 40.5%

Region IV

Ben Elliot - 64.4% - elected
Ellen Kunze - 35.6%

Lay

Region I

Bill Abbott - 67.7% - elected
Jim Alfano - 32.3%

Region II

Sherry Pica - 30.3%
Allison Sweeney - 69.7% - elected

Region III

Howard Holman - 48.5%
Jan Lowe - 51.5% - elected

Region IV

Bill Burger - 52.8% - elected
Janet Reynolds - 47.2%

Secretary, Rev. Jim Hallmann, announced and asked that caucuses of following circuits be held after the morning session, as they needed to elect circuit counselors: 5, 8, 12, 13, 15, 18, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 31, and 32.

Bible Study

Led by Rev. Kevin Kosberg, he looked at the account in the Gospel of John, Chapter 4. It was pointed out that we've heard all of the background, etc., what we want now to focus on is - the well is deep and you have nothing to draw water with. The woman speaks an absolute truth - the well is deep (long way down there, you can't draw it out - moreover, she has no idea about how deep God's well of love and forgiveness is). Did she ever envision her life would be like that and that she would be known for what/who she is/was? Yet God had a different plan, idea - we don't know what had brought her to that point during the day to that well - perhaps she was just trying to get through the day.

The only way to have a conversation with someone else, is that it needs to be/to start with my own personal conversation with Jesus - do I/we realize how deep that well is for my fears, failures, doubts, hurts, scars that burden me/us. If there is any hope for inviting people into conversation? Then I first need to hear the depth of God's love and grace. "*All Right Here in My Arms; You're alright here in my arms,*" sung by Kip Flack - the conversation Jesus is inviting us to have with him today.

One thing she understood - she didn't have to have it all together to have that conversation with Jesus - but once she did understand, and understood a love that went beyond failure and mistakes, understood a God who loved her, who forgave her - the conversations came easy. Amazing, the people she avoided, or wanted to avoid, etc., were the very folks she went to and told them about her conversations with this man.

Mark 4:26-29 - the kingdom of God is like a man sowing seed, which grows as he knows not. Sometimes we are tempted to believe that methods and methodologies are more important, but then discovered the growth, etc., is not something we know how it happens - we've sowed the seed, and it grows - "God it's your church, I'm going to bed." The Bible study closed with the singing of "Beautiful Savior."

Announcements

Kurt Jostes from RAI Ministries shared an update on Hurricane relief following Katrina. A great number of families restored to their homes over the last four years, however, there is still a lot of work to be done. Camp Biloxi, Camp Restore, continues to be operational.

Chaplain Dannenbring - led in prayer closing this session at 11: 56 a.m. Delegates remembered the family of an elder from Our Savior Lutheran Church, Granada Hills, who passed away.

Session IV - Monday afternoon, June 29, 2009

Delegates reconvened at 1:29 p.m., with some thoughts shared by the day's afternoon chaplain, Rev. Dr. Kevin Wyssmann, Region IV Vice-President. He talked about the conversation he had with his mother, around the time that she was dying, and the song they sang, "I Can Only Imagine." It was a wonderful time to talk about God's love and being in His presence, Acts 2:42ff. Can you imagine - gathering together in awe; in that love for one another; being fed on the word of God, blessed by the Sacraments; the Lord adding to our number daily?

Youth delegates/pages - Brandon & Allyse were welcomed and introduced.

Larry Reinhardt - representing our LCMS Stewardship Department, was acknowledged and briefly addressed the convention delegates.

School Ministries Report - Rachel Klitzing, Executive Director

Mrs. Klitzing shared her report (Workbook, pgs. 106-108), emphasizing Ephesians 4:15-16, that not only are we "Connected in Christ," but also connected with others. She pointed out that our schools truly are mission outposts and are seen as such. Pastors with schools must be visible, missional, and reachable to those whose students are enrolled. She stressed the importance of teamwork and partnership - for we are participating in Christ's mission, not working our own agenda. A hallmark of our ministry is the fact that our schools are places of help, hope and excellence (reflected in the core values of faith, integrity, service, excellence, teamwork, and appreciation). Seriously, we're connected - there are more schools in the Pacific Southwest District than in any other district of the LCMS.

Rachel introduced her team - Lynn Rose, Cathy Lenhart, Ellen Pratt, and Paul Brandt. Mr. Brandt, works part-time with the school ministry team in providing the following support and assistance to congregations: existing school strategic planning consultation; existing school marketing plan workshops; support for churches considering opening schools; and school board training workshops.

The Grantparent Program has been going for 7 years. This is a mission project (notice 'grant' parent) which focuses on providing scholarship assistance to enable students to go and/or continue their education at Lutheran Schools.

Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance

President Larry Stoterau introduced Rev. Robert Green, chair of the BRTFSSG, who reported that this was the 18th and last district convention that he will have to attend. Reporting on the work of the BRTFSSG, he indicated that any changes recommended must be consistent with LCMS theology and polity. The purpose is not to create a perfect structure, but an effective and efficient one to reach out to people with the Gospel. The LCMS started with 14 congregations, and has grown now to over 6,000. Rev. Green pointed out that doctrinal agreement doesn't lead to structural harmony, however the focus of the task force was to define what synod is and how it functions, recognize that enhancing the mission was a prime concern for Synod, and that they needed to be cognizant of stewardship principles in Synod providing efficiency. What he was about to share was not the final report; rather a summary of ideas and thoughts, and feedback to the task force which will be presented at the July 2010 convention.

The task force began four years ago interviewing leaders of Synod, and asking what's broken; with District Boards of Directors, what is needed to enhance the ministries of your congregations? From the preliminary list, the task force went back to all they had talked with before. Out of these conversations, 20 proposals were developed with the following guidelines:

Foundational matters

- Affirm in our governing documents, the mission and purpose of our Synod
- Emphasize the importance of doctrinal resolutions and doctrinal statements
- Clarify the categories of membership in our Synod Governance
- Redefine congregational representation to district conventions, including commissioned members
- Determine equitable congregational representation to district conventions
- Determine congregational representation to National Convention
- Establish a fixed number of delegates to the National Convention
- Amend the process of submitting overtures to National & District Convention
- Amend the frequency of district & national Conventions

Structural

- Restore circuits to their priority purpose
- Consider future district configuration
- Provide collaborative and efficient National Synod Structure
- Involve the totality of congregations in the election of Synod President and First Vice President
- Arrange for five geographical regions in the Synod
- Elect Synod vice-presidents regionally
- Amend the composition of Synod's Board of Directors
- Provide Consistency of Terms of Office and Term Limits

Congregations

- Priority of Synod governing documents
- Expand the certification process for pastoral candidates
- Consider a new name for our Synod

Q/A with Rev. Bob Green - some of the comments/questions that were presented/discussed:

- expressed concern about the reduction of advisory members
- representation of commissioned members, expand such that commissioned ministers be its own category, rather than sharing with lay
- changes in Article II, how does changing it impact so many other things - what is the rationale for changing and why doesn't existing wording satisfy the new --- the task force was given permission to start at base zero, some of the new wording expands on our confession
- with larger districts - how can new district presidents become truly a pastor to the pastors
- the BRTFSSG will compile district convention surveys by 10/15/09
- final recommendations to be developed by December 1st
- there will be 9 regional conferences of delegates - Revs. Green, Kieschnick, Stoterau, Bugler, Sohns will present the recommendations to the elected delegates to the 2010 Synodical Convention
- the results of the regional conferences will go to the floor committee of the convention to make final recommendations
- where applicable, Bylaw changes will take effect automatically
- any changes in the Constitution's Articles will ultimately go to congregations for ratification requiring a 2/3 majority of votes cast
- if there is a reduction in the number of Synod boards and commissions, that ministry work likely would be transferred to the districts (cf. document *Walking Together - the LCMS Future*, p. 7)

Concordia Publishing House President, Bruce Kintz, was welcomed and introduced. He has been with CPH for 11 years, the last 3 as president. Bringing greetings to the delegates, he indicated that in his role as president he has adopted a position of listening (to the wants and needs of teachers, schools, congregations), responding (creating resource to meet those needs), and then providing the appropriate resources. CPH has been around for 140 years, and we're still listening, learning, providing - they are still strong. CPH also gave a \$500 library to one of the PSD's missions - Peace Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, Nevada.

First Vice-President Roger Sonnenberg assumed the chair for an Ablaze/Fan Into Flame presentation by District President Stoterau, referencing his report (WB pgs. 33-34). The delegates saw an Ablaze video. The Ablaze movement has an ambitious goal of reaching 1,000,000 people by 2017. There are two tickers going, one counting

the growing world population; and the second, indicating the number of those who have shared/heard the good news of Jesus Christ. It is our district's goal to have every congregation participating over the next 2 years (\$49 million has been pledged or given to date to LCMS). The movement's objectives are to pray, participate (formally commit), and encourage (all members in congregation to participate). In the Pacific Southwest District, \$1.2 million has been committed. The first gift of \$100,000, is for a mission outreach to "Mexico" speaking people in Ventura County. Other endeavors include a Chinese ministry outreach in Hacienda Heights, Pastor Lee working with Rev. Bill Cwirla; the revitalization of congregations - transforming congregations (ex. Rev. Greg Barth - Winnetka, CA), along with transforming pastors, vs. transforming congregations. President Stoterau urged the convention delegates to please give the people in their congregations a chance to participate in Fan Into Flame.

Regional Mission Facilitator Reports

Rev. Jerry Kosberg recognized the 30 Covenant Congregations, reading their names, and presenting them with certificates of participation. Those who were recognized were:

Cross of Christ Lutheran, Anthem, AZ	Apostles Lutheran, Peoria, AZ
Ascension Lutheran, Apple Valley, CA	St. John Lutheran, Bullhead City, AZ
Redeemer by the Sea Lutheran, Carlsbad, CA	Christ Lutheran, Brea, CA
Concordia Lutheran, Chula Vista, CA	Crown of Life Lutheran, Sun City West, AZ
Eternal Life Lutheran, Mesa, AZ	Faith Community Lutheran, Las Vegas, NV
First Lutheran Church, Van Nuys, CA	Fountain of Life Lutheran, Sun City, AZ
Grace Lutheran, Lancaster, CA	Christ's Greenfield Lutheran, Gilbert, AZ
Holy Trinity Lutheran, Hacienda Heights, CA	Holy Cross Lutheran, San Diego, CA
Redeemer Lutheran, Huntington Beach, CA	Lamb of God Lutheran, Las Vegas, NV
Trinity Lutheran, Litchfield Park, CA	Palabra de Dios Lutheran, Maywood, CA
Saving Grace Lutheran, Queen Creek, AZ	Redeemer Lutheran, Perris, CA
Risen Savior Lutheran, Chandler, AZ	Celebration of Faith Lutheran, Santee, CA
Christ Lutheran, Costa Mesa, CA	Faith Lutheran, Capistrano Beach, CA
Gracia Lutheran, Escondido, CA	St. Paul Lutheran, San Diego, CA
Summit Community Lutheran, Verrado/Buckeye, AZ	Mount Calvary Lutheran, Lake Arrowhead, CA

Ron Rehrer - Ethnic & Expansion Missions

8 missionaries

Pastor Nate Schauss - Summit Lutheran Church, Buckeye, AZ

Challenge of space and place; 20 youth and adults who were baptized;
our focus will always be beyond our walls

Pastor Tim Eaton - Chino/Corona area - Water of Life Lutheran - Edgewater, CA

Mission project; connecting people to Jesus - mission statement

Pastor Johnny Lopez - Trinity Cristo Rey, Santa Ana, CA

Largest community in Orange County; reaching out to immigrant families; mobile dental clinic; Easter egg hunt; Kings Kids program, food distribution program; beginning a new music clinic; struggle with complacency

Pastor Samuel Gomez - Grace Lutheran, Escondido, CA

Baptized 43 individuals; over 50 confirmations & first communions;
worshipping 140, especially during the summer; created a Mission Society

Pastor Harry Moon - Good News Korean Lutheran Church, Garden Grove, CA

Last year celebrated 50 years of ministry; more than 25 Korean pastors in district; working hard to train them

Pastor Andy Wu - Loving Savior Lutheran, San Fernando, CA

Try to understand each other; people don't care how much we know about mission; want to know how much we care about people

Pastor Assefa Zelelew- African Immigrant Missions (Medhanalem Ethiopian Lutheran Church, San Diego, CA) Don't believe what is written, but do believe what is spoken (the people are not visual, but oral); more than 120 people (friends of friends) attended my graduation; a couple wanted to get married, did so - 120 plus were in attendance

Vicar Mark Siegert - Pastor Kinh Vu - Vietnamese Ministry, Garden Grove - Cross Cultural Ministry program at CUI, side by side with Pastor Moon; had 25 youth at a lock-in

Gary Norton—Our mission field is many colors and many cultures, therefore, pray for workers and look what the Lord has done - God's gifts to His people come first in the form of His Son, and in the form of the persons like we've just heard. He has provided them; He has given us these gifts. We are remarkably and graciously blessed by gifts and their presence in our district.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund Represented by Gary Spencer and Rob Wickord, they expanded on their report to the convention (WB pgs. 119-126), sharing what is going on in the district and the national scene. LCEF is keyed into providing space and place NOW and in the FUTURE. For the delegates, they reviewed the various services, etc., that LCEF can provide. It's all about partnering - partnering with investors and with those who have loans. Specific and graphic information was shared with the delegates via a PowerPoint presentation.

Lutheran Laymen's League, was represented by Lou Marting and Dick Gast. Mr. Marting explained that LLL is what we are; Lutheran Hour Ministries is what we do. Mr. Gast, who has been the coordinator of Petal Pushers, shared with the delegates that the LCMS is the only religious organization having a float in the Rose Parade and is sponsored by the Lutheran Hour. He invited delegates to participate in being a Petal Pusher, and to the 2010 parade. The Lutheran Hour theme is - "The Ten Commandments - Jesus fulfilled."

Session IV adjourned with prayer by Chaplain Kevin Wyssmann at 6:47 p.m.

Session V - Tuesday morning, June 30, 2009

President Larry Stoterau called the convention to order at 8:30 a.m.; and introduced the Concordia University students who provided the pre-convention music.

Chaplain of the day Vice-President, Rev. Steve Carlson began his morning devotion stating that rumor has it.....we're going bankrupt; that we should cut off ELCA; that the BRTFSSG is undermining Synod, etc.; adding that if you haven't heard a rumor by noon, then start one. However, he quickly pointed out clearly that we're not here to start or to perpetuate rumors, but to engage in Inviting Conversations - Empowering Words. Jesus prays for His church, for us in convention; prays that we would be unified so that we glorify Him. Needless to say, we do this by listening to one another, by engaging in conversations, sharing His words, His message.

Zach & MacKenzie, youth delegates/pages were welcomed and introduced. President Stoterau mentioned that all of the convention's youth pages, specifically welcomed and introduced, are in leadership positions of our district's Lutheran Youth Fellowship.

Resolution Floor Committee

Rev. Kevin Kritzer, Chair of the Resolution Floor Committee, and its members were called back to the platform to present additional convention resolutions.

Resolution # 5

(ref: Unprinted Overture 06 and Unprinted Overture 03 - handout, Resolutions for the 42nd Regular Pacific Southwest District Convention, p. 12)

TO: Encourage Congregations to Pray Corporately and Regularly for Their Communities, the Lost, our Missionaries and the Harvest. The committee presented the resolution and moved its adoption.

Delegate vote: Resolution 5 was adopted - yes - 98.1%; no - 1.9%

Resolution # 11

(ref: Unprinted Overture 09 - handout, Resolutions for the 42nd Regular Pacific Southwest District Convention, p. 17)

TO: Affirm Human Life The committee presented the resolution and moved its adoption. A substitution motion was made "~~to consider~~ discuss Unprinted Overture 09, in place of Resolution 11." Seconded. It was expressed that the unprinted overture was stronger in its resolve and action.

The substitute motion was adopted by a Delegate vote: - yes - 56%; no - 44%.

Unprinted Overture 09 was presented.

Delegate vote: Unprinted Overture 09 was adopted - yes - 77.7%; no 22.2%

Resolution # 9 *(ref: Unprinted Overture 13 - handout, Resolutions for the 42nd Regular Pacific Southwest District Convention, p. 15)*

TO: Encourage Congregations with Schools to be Intentional in Reaching the Unchurched Families in their School. The committee presented the resolution and moved its adoption.

Delegate Vote: Resolution 9 was adopted - yes - 98.2%; no - 1.8%

Resolution # 6 *(ref: Unprinted Overture 07 - handout, Resolutions for the 42nd Regular Pacific Southwest District Convention, p. 13)*

TO: Encourage Congregations to Hold Adult Instruction Courses. The committee presented the resolution and moved its adoption.

Delegate Vote: Resolution 6 was adopted - yes - 98.3%; no - 1.7%

Resolution # 4 *(ref: Unprinted Overture 1 - handout, Resolutions for the 42nd Regular Pacific Southwest District Convention, p. 11)*

TO: Encourage Smaller Congregations to Participate in "Cures and Connections." The committee presented the resolution and moved its adoption.

Delegate Vote: Resolution 4 was adopted - yes - 87.9%; no - 12.1%

Resolution # 8 *(ref: Unprinted Overture 8 - handout, Resolutions for the 42nd Regular Pacific Southwest District Convention, p. 14)*

TO: Encourage Congregations to Conduct One or More Evangelism Training Events per Year. The committee presented the resolution and moved its adoption.

Delegate Vote: Resolution 8 was adopted - yes - 92.5%; no - 7.5%

Bible Study

The morning Bible study was led by Rev Dr. John Palka, Director of Outreach, Christ Lutheran Church, La Mesa, CA, based on John 17:6-21 - the text providing answers to the question of what does the message of Jesus look like? Rev. Palka had the delegates introduce themselves to someone next to them, and then share with one another, a person who had affected / influenced us. He further stated that it didn't/doesn't matter what I'm doing, what my vocation is - the highest calling is to share the love of Jesus Christ with those around me. Needless to say the boundaries of one's life will be pushed out, stretched, going beyond the framework of a job, etc., to share God's Word with others. Rev. Palka pointed out that our God is a "sending God," and that we have been sent into the world, and after all how can we have those inviting conversations, if we are not in the world, if we are not rubbing shoulders with those who are outside the "walls of the church." And, why does God want us in the world, why do we need to be in the world? We are in the world, because that's where God wants us to be; because we are the message, the walking billboard of Jesus Christ; and because people need to hear that message of salvation, love, and hope.....from us.

World Missions

Rev. David Birner, Associate Executive Director, LCMS World Missions, was welcomed and introduced. He brought greetings from Rev. Tom Zehnder, Executive Director, who sends his apologies for not being able to attend the convention, due to two circumstances, his wife, Jackie, being in the hospital (will be undergoing tests), and their daughter, Christie, died about a week ago. Rev. Birner mentioned that Rev. Zehnder is one of those servants who is in the world. He urged that we are to be part of God's footprint here in the PSD, for we are in unprecedented times, with unprecedented opportunities. The world in which we live is in crises; and it is at that very point, where God intercepts with His Good News. Our church body has a heart for missions. At the time of the beginning of LCMS, it took only 4 years to establish a Mission Board; and 50 years later to move beyond the national borders, in 1895 - to India. Now, we are in 88 countries around the world, and working with some 40 different church bodies. Achieving the Ablaze goal of reaching 100 million people can be attained by moving in three directions - international, national, and military forces arenas - utilizing the skills of chaplains, international educators, career missionaries, long term Globally Engaged Outreach (GEO) & short term missionaries, staff; and not forgetting the opportunities of schools, congregations, districts, and partner churches around the world. There are also the programs of Project Barnabas, and the Armed Forces Ministry. One of the greatest challenges is/will be the engagement with people of and crises in the Muslim world. Rev. Birner reported that approximately \$48 million has been received and/or committed to Fan Into Flame as of the end of June '09. He urged delegates to keep in mind the six keys - learn, pray, tell, send, give, and celebrate.

Announcement

The Fall Pastors' Conference will be held in Scottsdale, AZ, around the theme of "Spiritual Warfare", which will feature presentations by Rev. Jerry Kosberg, based on the book he wrote, *In His Mighty Power - An Introduction to Spiritual Warfare*; and Rev. Dr. Steve Mueller, Concordia University, Irvine, keynoting about the writings of C.S. Lewis, primarily *The Screwtape Letters*. The conference will also review hymns/hymnody dealing with spiritual warfare.

Following a break, President Stoterou indicated that none of this, the equipping conference or convention would be possible without the behind the scenes people. He specifically acknowledged and gave kudos to the Convention Steering Committee (led by Revs. Chris Schaar and John Zeile), the Equipping Conference Committee (members of both committees listed on p. 32 of the Workbook), the District Staff, Russ Havemann, Parliamentarian and timekeeper Mr. Dennis Schaar.

LWML/Lutheran Women in Mission

President Stoterou welcomed and introduced Mrs. Linda Cook, our district's Lutheran Woman's Missionary League (LWML) President. She brought greetings from our district LWML & the national LWML organization, reporting on their recent national convention around the theme of "Look to the Hills, God Reigns." Joyfully, there were 3,200 in attendance. Mrs. Cook gave a brief overview of the LWML organization, mentioning that the goal for mites for the district mission grants amounted to \$150,000, while the national goal is around \$1.4 million. She also reported that just under \$24,000 came from the national convention for Hispanic ministry training here in the PSD. Announcing next year's District LWML Convention, Mrs. Cook indicated the dates of June 11-13, 2010, to be held in Tempe, AZ, the LWML delegates gathering around the theme of "Sing to the Lord," based on Isaiah 42. Delegates were made aware of and encouraged to make available to those in their congregations the publication, "WOW" (Women of the World). In addition, Mrs. Cook was pleased to announce that a new flyer would be coming from LWML, entitled "Pastor to Pastor."

Convention Business

Representatives of District Circuits 1 and 2, requested addressing the convention, and following their presentation moved.....*"to amend Resolution 3 to realign Circuits 1 and 2, according to a more workable alignment, for which congregations in those circuits were in agreement."* Seconded.

Delegate vote: The amended Resolution 3 was adopted - yes - 99.1%; no - 1.0%

Election to Rank the Vice Presidents

The four regional vice-presidents who were elected, were ranked by delegate ballot vote as follows:

1st - Roger Sonnenberg, Region 2

2nd - Rich Dannenbring, Region 3

3rd - David Bolte, Region 4

4th - Lowell Kindschy, Region 1

Ratification Ballot for Circuit Counselors

President Larry Stoterau presented to the delegates the ratification ballot for the district's circuit counselors, 2009 - 2012. **The slate was ratified by Delegate Vote - yes - 92.2%; no - 7.8%**

<u>Circuit #</u>	<u>Name</u>
1	David Bloedel
2	Rob Rebensal
3	Greg Barth
4	James Page
5	Jess Knauft
6	John Perling
7	Dave Hill
8	Bill Brunold
9	Zabdi Lopez
10	Doug Johnstone
11	William Cwirla
12	Dan Harmelink
13	Tim Klinkenberg
14	Kerwin Duerr
15	Ron Hodel
16	Eric Kaelberer
17	Robert Den Ouden
18	Bill Duerr
19	Robert Smith
20	Daniel Alsop
21	Allen Kolkman
22	Phillip Robbins
23	Dave Weber
24	Rodger Gredvig
25	Vince Harman
26	Daryl Robarge
27	Michael Schmidt
28	George Spicer
29	James Behnke
30	Mark Friedrick
31	Earl Pierce
32	Rod McPherson

Concordia University, Irvine

The President of Concordia University, Rev. Dr. Jacob (Jack) Preus, was introduced and welcomed by the convention. Dr. Preus brought greetings from the faculty and students of Concordia, and reported that fall enrollment was very gratifying, with over 500 new undergraduates for this fall, along with the fact that the graduate program was up also. The campus population numbers 2,500 students. He further related that there are two new programs available at CUI - nursing, and an MA program in athletics & education. Dr. Preus also mentioned that this was not his normal type of report, adding that he had accepted the Call to serve as Vice President of Mission Development with Bethesda Lutheran Communities (formerly, Bethesda Lutheran Homes & Services, which now includes the like ministry services of Good Shepherd Communities [Good Shepherd Lutheran Home of the West]) in Watertown, WI, and would be transitioning into that position in September of this year. He acknowledged that the 11 years at Concordia were the best years of his ministry, however, accepting this Call affirmed that servanthood is all about the mission for the day. The delegates saw a video presentation, prepared by Daniel Vanderhyde, a recent graduate, reflecting on his education at Concordia. President Larry Stoterau led a prayer for Dr. Preus, his wife, Sherry and family, on this new ministry, and also for the Concordia University family.

Board for University Education, LCMS

Dr. Kurt Krueger, representing the Board for University Education, was welcomed and introduced. He shared information and the goals of the *What A Way* initiative, that of identifying and recruiting young men and women as church workers, along with the nurture and support of current workers in the church. He indicated that in 2000, there were 3,000 men and women preparing for church work, however in 2009, that number dropped to 2,000. It has been reported by school principals and others that they just can't find enough synodically trained teachers. A short video explaining *What A Way* was shared with the delegates. This is an excellent resource, not only for schools, but also Sunday Schools. A brochure is included in delegate convention packets for ordering this video, along with other materials and resources.

Resolution Floor Committee

Rev. Kevin Kritzer, Chair, and the Resolution Floor Committee were called back to the platform to present the final convention resolutions.

Resolution # 12 (ref: document distributed to convention delegates)

TO: Encourage the 2010 Synod Convention to Give Careful Consideration to the Proposals and Report of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance. The committee presented the resolution and moved its adoption. An amendment, adding an additional resolved (to become the 3rd resolved, the 3rd in the original resolution becomes the 4th resolved) was moved. Seconded.

The amendment was adopted by Delegate vote - yes - 65.3%; no - 34.7%.

Delegate Vote on the amended Resolution 12 was adopted - yes - 75.8%; no - 24.2%

Resolution # 10 (ref: Unprinted Overture 14 - handout, Resolutions for the 42nd Regular Pacific Southwest District Convention, p. 16)

TO: Encourage Congregations to Pay Convention Assessment. The committee presented the resolution and moved its adoption.

Delegate vote: Resolution 10 was adopted - yes - 94%; no - 6%

Resolution # 7 (ref: Unprinted Overture 04 - handout, Resolutions for the 42nd Regular Pacific Southwest District Convention, p. 13)

TO: Thank, Affirm, and Support Our Covenant Congregations. The committee presented the resolution and moved its adoption. Resolution 7 was adopted

Delegate vote: passed - yes - 93.8%; no - 6.2%

Resolution # 13 (ref: *Unprinted Overture 15 - document distributed to convention delegates*)

TO: Call for Equitable Representation and Voice for Commissioned Ministers of the Gospel within the Pacific Southwest District. The committee presented the resolution and moved its adoption

Delegate vote on the Amendment yes - passed - 68% no - 32%

Delegate vote on the Amended resolution yes - passed - 78.8% no - 21.2%

President Stoterau recognized and made a presentation to those individuals who are not able to serve because of term limits or who were not re-elected:

Rev. Steve Carlson, Vice President 2003 - 2009

Rev. Dr. Kevin Wyssmann, Vice President 2000 - 2009

Mr. Charles Gerken, Board of Directors member 2000 - 2009

Rev. Doug Johnstone, Board of Directors member 2003 - 2009

Rev. Tim Klinkenberg, Board of Directors member 2003 - 2009

Mr. Rudiger Stuhlmuller, Board of Directors member 2003 - 2009

Rev. Jim Pflueger, Missions Committee Chairman 2003 - 2009

Rev. David Schilling, Constitution Committee Chairman 2000 - 2009

Ms. Jennell Lucich, Constitution Committee Assistant 2003 - 2009

Final Convention Report

Rev. Glenn Lucas, Convention Registrar, updated the convention registration numbers:

Pastoral Delegates	171	Advisory Delegates	95
Lay Delegates	<u>157</u>	Guests	<u>73</u>
Total Voting	328	Total Non-Voting	168
TOTAL ATTENDANCE	496		

President Stoterau thanked Rev. Lucas for his work as Registrar, and advised the convention that Rev. Lucas was leaving the Pacific Southwest District, having accepted the Call to be the head of missions in the Southeastern District.

Convention Closing and Installation

A closing prayer was led by the day's chaplain, Rev. Steve Carlson. Once again, the final worship service gave thanks to God for those who had faithfully served our district and asked for His continued guidance and providing for the future. Former District President, Rev. Dr. Loren Kramer, installed the Rev. Dr. Larry Stoterau as District President. President Stoterau, in turn, installed the four regional vice-presidents and the other officers of the district. At 11:47 a.m., President Stoterau declared the 42nd Convention of the Pacific Southwest District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, to be adjourned. Delegates and guests joined in the singing of the doxology, "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" as the closing song.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. James A. Hallmann, Secretary
Pacific Southwest District