



## MINUTES

### **Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023**

The morning session was called to order by President Schroeder at 8:00 a.m. The opening devotion was led by Rev. Brian Hackmann and was based on Rev. 12:7-17a. The hymn, "Rise, Shine, You People," was sung. Rev. Hackmann was thanked for leading the devotion.

Prof. James Danell introduced Rev. Makisimu Musa, president, Obadiah Lutheran Synod of Uganda, who joined the convention via Zoom. Rev. Musa addressed the convention from Africa. The chairman of Floor Committee #3: Commission on Inter-Church Relations, Rev. David Kolander, presented the committee's Resolution No. 02. The resolution was moved and supported. The motion carried unanimously. The assembly joined in singing "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow."

Prof. Danell introduced Rev. Tonny Quintero, *Iglesia Cristo WELS Internacional* and Rev. Andrew Johnston. Rev. Quintero addressed the assembly; Rev. Johnston translated. Rev. David Kolander returned to the podium and presented the Commission on Inter-Church Relation Committee's Resolution No. 01. The resolution was moved and supported. The motion carried unanimously. The assembly joined in singing, "God's Word is Our Great Heritage."

Rev. Kolander read the Commission on Inter-Church Relations Committee Report No. 01 and Report No. 02. Questions were answered. Resolution No. 03 was read, moved, and supported. The motion carried unanimously. The floor committee was thanked for its report.

Rev. Scott Schwertfeger, chairman, reported for Floor Committee #19: Elections. Results to date were reported and four run-off elections were held.

Rev. Larry Schlomer, administrator of the Board for World Missions and Rev. Jonathan Schroeder, chairman of the Board for World Missions, addressed the assembly. The men were thanked for their presentations.

A break was declared at 10:00 a.m. The morning session resumed at 10:22 a.m.

Rev. Mark Gabb, chairman of the Board for Home Missions, addressed the assembly. He was thanked for his PowerPoint and video presentation.

Rev. Paul Prange, administrator of the Board for Ministerial Education; Rev. Duane Rodewald, chairman of the Board for Ministerial Education; Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary President Rev. Earle Treptow; Martin Luther College President Rev. Richard Gurgel; Martin Luther College Admissions Counselor Mr. Theodore Klug; Luther Preparatory School President Rev. Matthew Crass; and Michigan Lutheran Seminary President Rev. Mark Luetzow came to the dais. Rev. Prange addressed the assembly and introduced the others, who also delivered presentations.

Rev. Schwertfeger presented the final report of the Elections Committee. It was moved and supported to thank the committee for their work. The motion carried.

Rev. Paul Seager, chairman, presented the report of Floor Committee #9: World Missions and Joint Mission Council. It was moved and supported to thank the committee. The motion passed.

President Schroeder closed the morning session with prayer at 11:52 a.m.

The afternoon session was called to order at 1:15 p.m. Rev. Timothy Spiegelberg led the devotion based on Rev. 14:6,7. The hymn, "Preserve Your Word, O Savior" was sung.

Rev. Jonathan Hein, director of the Commission on Congregational Counseling; Teacher James Rademan, director of the Commission on Lutheran Schools; Rev. Joel Gaertner, director of the Commission on Special Ministries; and Mr. Daniel Nommensen, the new operations manager for Congregational Services; were welcomed. Presentations were made by each. Rev. Paul Horn, the new national civilian chaplain, also spoke. The men were thanked for their presentations.

Mr. Jeremy Angle, president of Northwestern Publishing House, was welcomed to the podium. After his presentation, he was thanked.

Rev. Daniel Sims, chairman of WELS Christian Aid and Relief, spoke to the assembly. He was thanked for his presentation.

At 3:02 p.m. a break was declared. The session resumed at 3:23 p.m.

Rev. Kurt Lueneburg, director of the Ministry of Christian Giving, presented a very positive report to the convention. He was thanked for his presentation.

The assembly heard a presentation by Mr. Brad Price, president/CEO of the Lutheran Military Support Group. Veterans in the assembly were acknowledged with a round of applause. After questions were answered, he was thanked for his words.

Rev. William Carter, chairman of Committee #4: Ministry of Christian Giving, presented the committee's report. Report No. 01 was read. It was moved and supported to accept the report with thanks. The motion carried.

Rev. Adam Zimpelmann, chairman of Committee #5: Communications, presented the committee's report. Report No. 01 was read. It was moved and supported to accept the report with thanks. The motion carried.

Rev. Carlos Leyrer, chairman of Committee #6: Synodical Council, presented the committee's report. No. 01 was read. It was moved and supported to accept the report with thanks. The motion carried.

Rev. Scott Mosher, chairman of Committee #10: Ministerial Education, presented the committee's report. Report No. 1 was read. Resolution No. 01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. It was moved and supported to accept the report with thanks. The motion carried.

Rev. Benjamin Tomczak, chairman of Committee #11: Congregational Services "A" (Congregational Counseling, Evangelism, Discipleship), presented the committee's report. Report No. 01 was read. It was moved and supported to accept the report with thanks. The motion carried.

Rev. Bart Brauer, chairman of Committee #12: Congregational Services "B" (Worship and Special Ministries), presented the committee's report. Report No. 01 was read. Resolution No. 01 was moved and supported. President Schroeder noted that funding to implement the resolution would need to be considered/approved by the Synodical Council. After further discussion, the motion was called and it failed. It was moved and supported to accept the report with thanks. The motion carried.

Teacher David Gartner, chairman of Committee #13: Congregational Services "C" (Lutheran Schools), presented the committee's report. Report No. 01 was read. It was moved and supported to accept the report with thanks. The motion carried.

Rev. Andrew Mueller, chairman of Committee #2: Conference of Presidents, presented the committee's report. Reports No. 01, No. 02, No. 03, No. 04, No. 05, and No. 06 were read. Resolution No. 01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Resolution No. 02 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Resolution No. 03 was moved and supported. There was discussion. It was moved and supported to table the discussion until tomorrow. The motion to table carried.

The afternoon session adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

After the evening meal, at 7:00 p.m., Rev. Paul Biedenbender, Rev. David Koelpin, and Rev. Timothy Spiegelberg shared Home Mission presentations.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Robert W. Pasbrig,

WELS recording secretary