



The Daily Nail

Lutheran Church-Canada Convention News

Monday, October 16, 2017

Agenda Monday October 16

- 9:00 am **Business Session 6**
Grand Ballroom
- 12:00 pm **Adjournment**
Grand Ballroom
- 12:15 pm **Bag Lunch**
- 12:30 pm **Bus One to Toronto**
Grand Ballroom Lobby Exit
- 2:00 pm **Bus Two to Toronto**
Grand Ballroom Lobby Exit
- 5:45 pm **Bus to Waterloo Regional**
Grand Ballroom Lobby Exit

Monday's Meditation

**"Neither do I condemn you. Go now
and leave your life of sin."**

- John 8:11

President Elect addresses the Convention



- President Elect Timothy Teuscher speaks to the convention.

Rev. Timothy Teuscher gave his first address as President Elect to the convention on October 15.

He began by noting advice the late Rev. Dr. Albin Stanfel, then President of the Ontario District, had given him as a young pastor—advice to allow his name to stand if ever nominated for positions in the district or synod, and to let the church decide.

But now that the church had decided to make him president, he confessed, he was left wondering: "Why should I be the one to serve in this office when there are others far more qualified to do so than I am?"

"I think of President Ed Lehman, President Ralph Mayan, President Robert Bugbee," he continued. "I cannot even hope to adequately follow in their footsteps."

He also noted the challenges our synod has faced over the past number of years, and the increasingly hostile wider culture in which we find ourselves—reasons that might give anyone pause before accepting the presidency of the church.

"And yet, in spite of all these questions and issues and concerns and reasons to decline to serve in this office," said, "there stand those words of Dr. Stanfel: 'Let the church decide.' And so it is with much hesitancy, reluctance, with a great deal of fear and trepidation, and after much prayer and seeking advice and counsel... that I humbly bow to the will and decision of the convention and accept my election to serve as president of our synod."

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"I ask for your patience and prayers, your understanding, your support, your counsel, and your advice."

He cited C.F.W. Walther in his closing remarks, noting that we must remain true to the historic faith though others might run after the spirit of the times. Others might trust in their own abilities and wisdom, Walther explains, but we instead must trust rather in the grace and mercy of God.

"To that end," said President Elect Teuscher, "may God bless us and our poor, little Lutheran Church-Canada. Amen."

LCC enters into fellowship with Finnish Lutherans

Lutheran Church-Canada has declared altar and pulpit fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland.

The action was taken during LCC's synodical convention meeting in Kitchener, Ontario, and was adopted unanimously. It comes following discussions between representatives of the two church bodies revealed doctrinal unity, with LCC's Commission on Theology and Church Relations recommending the declaration of fellowship.

The Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland emerged out of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland as a result of that church's departure from historic Christian teaching. The Mission Diocese was founded in 2013, and is headed by Bishop Risto Soramies. As of 2016, it has 32 congregations.

Exhibits and Info Meals

Lutheran Church-Canada is blessed to have the support of many organizations which work alongside it as it serves people and proclaims the Gospel to the nations.

Throughout convention, delegates had the opportunity to learn more about these organizations by visiting their booths or by taking part in a series of six Info Meals. The info meals featured presenters from Lutheran Hour Ministries, Lutheran Foundation Canada, Concordia Lutheran Missionary Society, Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada and Canadian Lutheran World Relief. Exhibitors also featured Lutheran Association of Missionary Pilots, Lutheran Bible Translators Canada, Lutherans for Life Canada, the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf, the LCC oversea missions, Ambassadors of Reconciliation, the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, the Royal Canadian Chaplain Service, the seminaries, and FaithLife Financial.



- President Robert Bugbee receives the gift of a green stole presented by Board of Directors Chairman Arnold Drung

President Bugbee fêted

On Sunday evening, the convention honoured LCC President Robert Bugbee with a banquet in his honour. Rev. Tom Prachar, Central District President, served as emcee for the night and opened the program by introducing some of Rev. Bugbee's family who were present.

After dinner, the Holy Cross (Kitchener) choir sang an anthem written for the Reformation anniversary. First Vice President Nolan Astley regaled the crowd with some background stories about Rev. Bugbee. Board of Directors Chairman Arnold Drung presented Rev. Bugbee with a green stole for use in his return to parish ministry.

Rev. Bugbee responded with remarks of thanks. Appreciative of the love he has been shown from congregations all over Canada, he noted, "If I could, I would hug you all back!"

LCC Regions, Board Elections

The convention gave LCC's Board of Directors authority to organize up to eight regions, the boundaries of which are to be determined by the board in consultation with affected congregations. To simply matters for the present time, and to allow for the election of board members at this convention, the Board moved to recognize three regions for the time being, following the boundaries of the existing three districts.

Following that action, the convention was able to turn on October 15 to elections for the Board of Directors. Deacon Suzanne Eberhard was elected as a diaconal member, while Rev. Kurt Reinhardt, Rev. Warren Hamp, and Rev. Alex Klages were elected as clergy members. Three lay members have been elected so far (Arnold Drung, Cindy Sholdice, and Grace Henderson). Further ballots will be held on October 16 to determine additional lay representation.

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Bible Study: Romans 3

On the third day of the Convention, Rev. Esko Murto a study of Romans 3, unpacking the phrase “the righteousness of God.” These words troubled Luther in his early years, because he knew a righteous judge ought to punish evildoers. Luther hated the saying, because when he measured himself according to God’s Law, it showed him to be utterly sinful. Due to our sinful and corrupt nature, the Law always accuses us, even though it is good and perfect.

We need the Law of God, however, to convict us of sin and make us despair of our own works. In that sense, the preaching of the Law precedes the Gospel. It shakes every sinner from security in himself. As the Apostle writes, this is so “every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.” Rev. Murto explained that the Law works individually and universally. Without exception, every sinner is shown his sin in particular. The whole world also falls under God’s condemnation, because it neither keeps God’s Law perfectly nor keeps a pure conscience. All boasting is therefore excluded. But we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the Law. In His righteousness, God ought to punish us for our sins, yet out of His love for us He sent His only begotten Son, Our Savior, Jesus Christ, the righteousness of God. Upon Him, He laid the punishment due for us. For His sake, God has mercy on us and forgives us our unrighteousness.

“The righteousness of God” shows at once both God’s condemnation of sin when Christ was pinned to the Cross, and his infinite mercy because our redemption price was paid in full by His Blood. On account of Him, our righteous judge justifies the ungodly.

Restructuring resolutions

At the end of session on October 14, the Convention voted on Resolution 17.1.01 “To Adopt the Proposed Changes to the Statutory Bylaws of Lutheran Church–Canada.” Results from the ballot were announced the morning of October 15. The resolution passed with a 77.3 percent majority. The vote required a 2/3 majority to pass.

Later in the day, delegates considered Resolution 17.1.02 “To Adopt the Proposed Changes to the Constitution of Lutheran Church–Canada.” It likewise passed, with 92 voting in favour and two against. The changes to the constitution now go to the congregations of LCC for ratification. A 2/3 majority of voting congregations is required for the constitution to be amended, and congregations will have six months to vote.

Discussion then turned to Resolution 17.1.03 “To Adopt the Proposed Changes to the Synodical Bylaws of Lutheran Church–Canada.” Consideration of the resolution will resume on Monday morning.



– President Emeritus Ralph Mayan addresses the convention

Convention Greetings

The third day of the Convention saw additional greetings from several guests. Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan, President Emeritus of LCC, offered thanks for the many members of LCC who have remembered him in their prayers. Reiterating the convention theme—Christ alone, Christ forever—he noted that LCC’s purpose is all about proclaiming Jesus Christ and leading people to see Him, hear Him, and respond to Him.

Rev. Dr. Albert B. Collver brought greetings on behalf of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod President Matthew Harrison and the people of LCMS, assuring their prayers and support. President Milton Winston Tejada Huatuco of the Lutheran Church in Peru spoke on the work of his church. Roberto José Zepeda, longtime office manager of LCC’s Mission Centre in Chinandega, Nicaragua, also brought greetings, thanking Canadians for their continued support of the Nicaraguan church. Finally, Bishop Torkild Masvie of the Lutheran Church of Norway also brought greetings.

The President of Lutheran Women’s Missionary League–Canada, Iris Barta, also brought greetings on Sunday, as did Lisa Jackson of Concordia Lutheran Mission Society. Both highlighted the work their organizations do to support the broader mission work of LCC.

Rev. Kruesel elected LCC Vice President

On October 15, the convention elected Rev. Thomas Kruesel as Vice President of Lutheran Church–Canada. He was elected on the third ballot.

Rev. Kruesel has served as LCC’s Second Vice President since 2011, and served as Third Vice President from 2009–2011.

As a result of convention’s decision to adopt Resolution 17.1.01, synod will only have one Vice President going forward.

Reporting to circuits

When you return to your circuit to report on the convention use the information and news from The Daily Nail to help refresh your memory.

Evaluation

We are always looking at ways to improve our conventions. To help us out we will email you a link to a Convention Evaluation where you can tell us how things were for you and how we can make this event better. Watch your email for the message!

Daily Newsletter Staff

A big thank you to those who contributed to The Daily Nail over the past few days. Elaine Stanfel, Rev. Milton Lam, and Allison Kuhl all contributed as reporters, while Doris Osgood served as convention photographer. Scott Refvik, meanwhile, has done layout. Mathew Block, communications manager for LCC, has served as editor.

Name tags and vouchers

Please leave your name tag, lanyard and expense vouchers at the Information Desk today before you leave.

Transportation information

The message board near the Information Desk has departure information.

- Two coaches to Toronto at 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. will load from the second-floor lobby area to buses parked beside the hotel on Charles St.
- The bus for Waterloo/Kitchener airport will also leave from the Charles St. location at 5:45 p.m.
- If you are leaving on Tuesday, October 17 or later, Airways Transit will provide your transportation boarding from the hotel front door.

Business Completed on Sunday (All Adopted)

- Resolution 17.1.01 – To Adopt the Proposed Changes to the Statutory Bylaws of Lutheran Church–Canada
- Resolution 17.1.02 – To Adopt the Proposed Changes to the Constitution of Lutheran Church–Canada
- Resolution 17.1.06 – To Replace the Current Statutory Bylaws and All Amendments Since Adopted in 2002 With a Consolidated Form of Statutory Bylaws
- Resolution 17.2.01 – To Direct the Synod Board of Directors to Implement Resolution 11.2.03
- Resolution 17.2.02 – To Address the Need for More Ordained Pastors
- Resolution 17.2.03 – To Ensure the Continuation of a Diaconal Training Program
- Resolution 17.2.08 – To Declare Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland
- Resolution 17.2.10 – To Thank God for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League – Canada (LWMLC) as it Observes its 25th Anniversary since its Formation as a Women's Auxiliary and for its 50 Years of Involvement with the LWML (USA)
- Resolution 17.3.02 – To Decline Overture 3.03
- Resolution 17.3.05 – To Change Guidelines for Synodical Resolutions Committees
- Resolution 17.3.06 – To Decline Overture 3.07
- Resolution 17.3.08 – To Give Thanks to God for the Leadership of Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee
- Resolution 17.3.09 – To Give Thanks to God for the Mission Leadership of Rev. Dr. Leonardo Neitzel

DONOR APPRECIATION

Lutheran Church–Canada expresses its sincere thanks to the following organizations who have provided support for the convention, both financial and in-kind.



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