

MINUTES OF THE 16TH CONVENTION OF THE NEBRASKA DISTRICT
OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD
June 4-6, 2009

Thursday Evening – June 4, 2009

Opening Worship Service

The 16th Convention of the Nebraska District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod opened on Thursday evening, June 4, 2009, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a communion worship service at St. John Lutheran Church, Seward, Nebraska. Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, was the preacher. He spoke on the theme of life often seeming to be overwhelming, but we have hope in Christ and in His love based on Titus 3:3-8.

Following the opening worship service the delegates proceeded to the convention arena at the Concordia University Health, Human Performance, and Athletic Center (HHPAC).

Credentials Report – Rev. David List

President Russell Sommerfeld called on Rev. David List, Chairman of the Credentials Committee, to provide the initial registration report. He reported the presence of 287 voting delegates at the beginning of the convention. He then presented the following resolution for action:

WHEREAS, the District policy for funding the District Convention, Synodical Convention, and third year “every member visit” initiative provides for annual assessments to all District congregations according to their communicant membership as reported annually; and

WHEREAS, the District policy also provides that the annual assessments shall be paid ten (10) days prior to the respective convention, and no delegates shall be certified unless his/her congregation’s assessment is timely paid; and

WHEREAS, five congregations have paid their assessments, but not by the deadline; and

WHEREAS, these congregations have sent delegates to this convention who are otherwise certified, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the convention waive the District policy for the five (5) congregations who have paid their assessments and permit these delegates to be certified.

This resolution was MOVED and SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

President Russell Sommerfeld declared a quorum and called the convention into session in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. He then led the assembly in prayer.

Announcement – Introductions

President Sommerfeld welcomed everyone to the 16th Convention of the Nebraska District of the LCMS. He also thanked St. John Lutheran Church for hosting the opening worship service. He requested that the delegates fill out question sheets for President Kieschnick and place them in the boxes located at the convention office or at the Janzow Campus Center no later than Friday morning at 8:00 a.m.

President Sommerfeld introduced special guests: Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick and wife, Terry, President of the LCMS; Rev. John Braunersreuther, Senior Assistant to the Synod President; Rev. Dr. J. A. O. Preus III, presenter; Rev. Claude Houge and wife, Rhoda, missionaries to East Africa; the members of the Nebraska District Board of Directors; Rev. James Rasmussen, assistant secretary; Mr. Kermit Brashear, parliamentarian; and former district president, Rev. Eugene Gierke and his wife, Linda.

Adoption of Convention Agenda and Standing Rules

It was MOVED and SECONDED to adopt the agenda of the convention as revised from the printed version in the Workbook. These changes included: Friday 2:00 – Nominations Committee; 2:05 – Approval of Minutes; 2:10 – Convention Keynote. Saturday 9:15 – Rev. Dan Mattson will give the LCMS World Mission Report; 9:40 – Patriot Award; 9:45 – Floor Committee #1. MOTION CARRIED.

President Sommerfeld requested Rev. Roland Jank, Jr., District Secretary, to read the standing rules to the convention delegates. Number 16 was revised so that cellular phones are allowed on the convention floor if kept on silent or vibrate mode. It was MOVED and SECONDED to adopt the standing rules as revised. MOTION CARRIED.

Welcome of New Members of the Synod – Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick

President Sommerfeld introduced and welcomed to the convention Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He shared words of welcome for the new members of Synod since last convention, including the new congregations received during the triennium – Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran Church, Omaha, Swede Valley Lutheran Church, Ashby, 1C, A Mission Church of the LCMS, Columbus, Word of Life Lutheran Church, Lincoln, The Rock Lutheran Church, Seward, as well as 29 ministers ordained and 38 ministers commissioned.

Welcome to Concordia University, Seward – Rev. Brian Friedrich

Rev. Brian Friedrich, President of Concordia University, was introduced and President Friedrich welcomed the delegates back to Concordia. He reported that the university served 1,344 students during the just-concluded year, about one-third of them from the Nebraska District. The university also was named by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of ten institutions of higher learning in the “Great Schools, Great Prices,” category. He said the curriculum continues to expand and that nearly 50 percent of Concordia University Nebraska students are preparing for full-time ministry in the LCMS.

Welcome to Seward – Mayor Roger Glawatz

Mr. Roger Glawatz, Mayor of Seward, was introduced and he welcomed the convention delegates to Seward. He said it is always a joy to welcome the Nebraska District Convention to Concordia and to Seward. He shared information on the changes that have taken place in Seward.

President’s Report

First Vice President Rev. Clint Poppe chaired the convention while President Sommerfeld gave the District President’s Report. President Sommerfeld highlighted the theme of Colossians 4:5-6 encouraging the delegates to “let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt,” pointing people to Jesus Christ. He noted opportunities in the mission field, with at least 50 percent of Nebraskans not claiming membership in any Christian church. He gave thanks for the blessings of faithful church workers and lay leaders. He noted challenges including raising awareness of LCMS ministries. His report in its entirety is printed in the convention proceedings.

Introduction of the District Staff

President Sommerfeld returned to the chair and called forward the staff from the District Office to express appreciation for all their support and service. He introduced the following staff members: Rev. Dr. Marvin Bergman, Rev. Richard Boring, Rev. Eugene Gierke, Rev. Mark Rockenbach, Don Weber, Paul Pettit, Gary Thies, Neal Koch, Connie Borchers, Jan Bruick, Nichole Hetz, Kim Hofer, Carol Oetting, Julie Roebke, Sandy Ruether, Barbara Von Kampen, and Robert Gilbreath. Thanks was expressed for their service to the District and to their Savior.

Elections Committee – Rev. Allen Bergstrazer

Rev. Allen Bergstrazer, Chairman of the Elections Committee, was introduced. He shared the ground rules that were to be followed in the voting process and gave the delegates opportunity to practice using the voting key pads.

Nominations Committee – Rev. Charles Gierke

Rev. Charles Gierke, Chairman of the Nominations Committee, was introduced. He shared information concerning the need for our convention to elect a lay person at this convention to serve on the 2010 Synod Nominations Committee. An alternate is also to be chosen. Floor nominations will be needed to accomplish this task. Such nominations will be received on Friday afternoon. The following names were presented for District President:

Rev. Brent Kuhlman
Rev. Russell Sommerfeld

It was MOVED and SECONDED to accept the District President slate. MOTION CARRIED. Rev. Tim Gierke, convention chaplain, offered a prayer for all the elections to follow.

Elections Committee – Rev. Allen Bergstrazer

Rev. Bergstrazer placed the ballot before the convention for a vote.

Voting Results

Rev. Brent Kuhlman – 102
Rev. Russell Sommerfeld – 232 (elected)

Rev. Sommerfeld asked his wife, Nino, to come forward and then he addressed the convention thanking the delegates for their support and then asked for their prayers.

Nominations Committee – Rev. Charles Gierke

Rev. Charles Gierke presented the ballot for the election of Region A vice president (page 76 of the convention workbook). It was MOVED and SECONDED to accept the ballot as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

Elections Committee – Rev. Allen Bergstrazer

Rev. Allen Bergstrazer presented the ballot for Region A vice president. The vote was taken with the following results:

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
Rev. Michael Gruhn	114	120	132
Rev. Shawn Kitzing	16		
Rev. Mark Middendorf	117	152	188 (elected)
Rev. Paul Warneke	67	50	

Nominations Committee – Rev. Charles Gierke

Rev. Charles Gierke presented the ballot for the election of Region B vice president (pages 77-78 of the convention workbook).

Elections Committee – Rev. Allen Bergstrazer

Rev. Allen Bergstrazer presented the ballot for the election of Region B vice president. The vote was taken with the following results:

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
Rev. Paul Beyer	58	46	39
Rev. Douglas Irmer	90	105	119
Rev. Arnold Jurchen	106	139	162 (elected)
Rev. Charles Schmidt	32	32	
Rev. Luke Schnake	31		

Nominations Committee – Rev. Charles Gierke

Rev. Charles Gierke presented the ballot for the election of Region C vice president (page 79 of the convention workbook).

Elections Committee – Rev. Allen Bergstrazer

Rev. Allen Bergstrazer presented the ballot for the election of Region C vice president. The vote was taken with the following results:

Rev. David Kuhfal - 44
Rev. John Ryding - 18
Rev. Richard Snow - 172 (elected)
Rev. D. Georg Williams – 89

Nominations Committee – Rev. Charles Gierke

Rev. Charles Gierke presented the ballot for the election of Region D vice president (page 80 of the convention workbook).

Elections Committee – Rev. Allen Bergstrazer

Rev. Allen Bergstrazer presented the ballot for the election of Region D vice president. The vote was taken with the following results:

- Rev. Brent Kuhlman - 161
- Rev. Orville Walz -164 (elected)

The results of ranking for the vice presidents were:

1st Vice President-	Rev. Richard Snow	139
2nd Vice President-	Rev. Mark Middendorf	118
3rd Vice President-	Rev. Arnold Jurchen	64
4th Vice President-	Rev. Orville Walz	7

Conversations of Grace – Rev. Richard Boring

Rev. Rich Boring presented a “Conversations of Grace” segment which included video interviews of people in Omaha being asked the question, “Who is Jesus?” Answers included “a historical figure,” “God’s son,” “I’m sorta like Jesus,” “I don’t believe in God,” and, “You’ve got to be kidding.” Rev. Boring asked the audience to think about who had conversations about Jesus with them and to think about with whom they might have a conversation about Jesus.

Evening Devotions – “For All the Saints” – Rev. Tim Gierke

Prayer was offered for special needs that had been shared. Thanks was expressed for those workers in our Nebraska District who have gone before us and now are at rest in the Lord. Rev. Tim Gierke then read a list of rostered workers who have died during the last three years. We then sang three stanzas of “For All the Saints.” A prayer of thanks to God was offered and the benediction followed.

The convention was recessed until 7:45 a.m. on Friday morning, June 5.

**CONVENTION MINUTES
Friday Morning – June 5, 2009**

Convention Reconvenes

President Sommerfeld called the convention to order at 7:50 a.m. Convention Chaplain Rev. Tim Gierke led us in prayer.

Bible Study – Rev. Michael Awe

President Sommerfeld introduced Rev. Michael Awe. He led a Bible study entitled “I Have Been Assalted!” on the convention theme of Colossians 4:5-6.

(Later) Nominations Committee – Rev. Charles Gierke

Rev. Charles Gierke presented the ballot for District Secretary (page 82 of the convention workbook). It was MOVED and SECONDED to accept the ballot as presented. The President closed the nominations after there were no floor nominations.

Rev. Charles Gierke presented the ballot for the commissioned minister member on the District Board of Directors (pages 83-85 of the convention workbook). It was MOVED and SECONDED to accept the ballot as presented. The President closed the nominations after there were no floor nominations.

Rev. Charles Gierke presented the ballot for the Region A lay member on the District Board of Directors (page 86 of the convention workbook). It was MOVED and SECONDED to accept the ballot as presented. The President closed the nominations after there were no floor nominations.

Rev. Charles Gierke presented the ballot for Region B lay member on the District Board of Directors (page 87 of the convention workbook). It was MOVED and SECONDED to accept the ballot as presented. The President closed the nominations after there were no floor nominations.

Rev. Charles Gierke presented the ballot for Region C lay member on the District Board of Directors (pages 87-88 of the convention workbook). It was MOVED and SECONDED to accept the ballot as presented. The President closed the nominations after there were no floor nominations.

Rev. Charles Gierke presented the ballot for Region D lay member on the District Board of Directors (pages 88-89 of the convention workbook). It was MOVED and SECONDED to accept the ballot as presented. The President closed the nominations after there were no floor nominations.

Rev. Charles Gierke presented the ballot for three ordained ministers to the District Nominations Committee (pages 90-91 of the convention workbook). Rev. Loren Cooper and Rev. Paul Beyer were nominated from the floor. It was MOVED and SECONDED to accept that ballot as amended. The President closed the nominations.

Rev. Charles Gierke presented the ballot for a commissioned minister to the District Nominations Committee (page 91 of the convention workbook). It was MOVED and SECONDED to accept that ballot as presented. The President closed the nominations after there were no floor nominations.

Rev. Charles Gierke presented the ballot for three lay members on the District Nominations Committee (pages 91-92 of the convention workbook). Ronald Fritz was a floor nominee. It was MOVED and SECONDED to accept that ballot as amended. The President closed the nominations.

Convention Keynote – Rev. Jack Preus

President Sommerfeld introduced Rev. Dr. Jacob A. O. Preus III, President of Concordia University Irvine. He shared greetings from the Pacific Southwest District President, Rev. Larry Stoterau. Dr. Preus spoke about the challenge that postmodernism presents to Christianity. Referencing the convention theme of Colossians 4:5-6, he said the first thing Christians must do to have conversations seasoned with the salt of the gospel is to listen to our culture. A prominent worldview today is postmodernism. It could kill Christianity if it is unchecked. Postmodernism says, “Don’t try to make sense of things. Things just are.” He showed clips from the movie “Forrest Gump,” which exemplifies postmodern ideas. Postmodernism says there is no meaning, no truth. Things don’t happen for a reason, they just happen. Postmodernism is an attack against the very idea of truth. Truth and meaning are viewed as constructed for the purpose of power. Therefore postmodernists say truth claims are to be viewed with suspicion and must be deconstructed and subverted. Christians meet this challenge by proclaiming Jesus, the one who proclaims himself as the way and the truth and the life (John 14:6).

Credentials Committee – Rev. David List

He reported the presence of 343 voting delegates, 118 advisory delegates, and 95 guests and staff.

Synodical Report/Question and Answer – President Gerald Kieschnick

President Sommerfeld introduced President Kieschnick, President of the LCMS. He congratulated President Sommerfeld on his re-election. President Kieschnick began by noting that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has faced a number of doctrinal conflicts in its history. However, the Synod today is “exceptionally united” in what we teach, believe, and confess. Issues under discussion today include communion practice, the roles of women in the church, and relationships with other church bodies. He urged that such discussions proceed with mutual respect. He went on to present a video portion of his report:

- There is “trouble in River City,” referencing the words of character Harold Hill from the play “The Music Man.” The trouble is a decline in Christian belief in our culture and the pervasiveness of drug and alcohol abuse, sexual immorality, and a pluralistic, humanistic, and secular environment” that is indifferent or hostile to the Christian faith.
- The church will respond to this situation with hope, based on the grace of God through Jesus Christ, poured out in Word and Sacraments.
- Churches are to seek the welfare of the places where they minister. He showed an example of Memorial Lutheran Church in Katy, Texas, which opened a free medical clinic.
- A focus on confession and absolution can bring harmony as the Synod prepares for its 2010 convention.
- Financial challenges threaten Lutheran churches, schools, and other missions. But there is hope in creative solutions for partnership, such as three congregations in Wisconsin that worked together to strengthen one another.
- The “Ablaze” movement is reaching people with the Gospel. St. John Lutheran Church in Newhall, Iowa, is an example of a congregation reaching out to its neighbors.
- The Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance is presenting opportunities for making the Synod’s ministry more efficient.

- The people of the Synod are encouraged to be engaged in One Mission, with One Message, as One People.

President Kieschnick then responded to questions from convention participants presented by Glenn Van Velson, Paul Leckband, and Rev. Clint Poppe. Among his responses:

- He encouraged continued study of the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions in regard to communion practice for the purpose of reaching consensus.
- The Blue Ribbon Task Force on Structure and Governance is not aiming to change the Synod's role as an advisory body for congregations. It will do so "over my dead body." He expressed his desire that any proposal enacted by the Synod in convention as a result of this project be supported by a strong majority. If such proposals do not attract consensus, he said, he questioned whether they should be enacted.

Conversations of Grace – Rev. Rich Boring

Recalling the video from the previous night's session in which people were asked, "Who is Jesus?" Rev. Boring showed video clips of a police officer and a woman who shared their faith in Christ with others.

Floor Committee #1 – Rev. Ron Holling

Rev. Ron Holling, Chairman of Floor Committee #1, Theology, Worship, and Church Relations, was introduced to the convention. He presented the following resolutions:

Resolution #1.01 (Overture #1.01). "To Give Thanks for Concordia University Nebraska and Encourage Active Participations of Nebraska Association of Congregations for Concordia (NACC)." The Committee MOVED adoption. The MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution #1.02 (Overture #1.03). "To Encourage Lay Leadership Education." The Committee MOVED adoption. An amendment was offered to insert in line 19 after the word "growth," the words: "but not to include the administration of the sacraments or preaching in the congregation." This amendment was MOVED and SECONDED. After some discussion, the orders of the day were called.

Installation of District President

President Kieschnick installed Rev. Russ Sommerfeld into the office of the District President for the next triennium. Afterwards, District President Sommerfeld presented President Kieschnick and his wife, Terry, with a gift on behalf of the District and thanks were expressed for their presence at our convention.

Floor Committee #2 – Rev. Mark Middendorf

Rev. Mark Middendorf, Chairman of Floor Committee #2, Administration, was introduced to the convention. He presented the following resolutions:

Resolution #2.01 (Overture #2.02) "To Realign Circuits." The Committee MOVED adoption. Rev. Orville Walz explained the rationale behind this resolution. It was MOVED and SECONDED to suspend the rule of reading the resolution. MOTION CARRIED. The original MOTION CARRIED.

Fan into Flame Celebration

President Sommerfeld recognized and thanked all the individuals who have served as leaders in the *Fan into Flame* campaign in their respective circuits.

Noon – Lunch Prayer – Rev. Tim Gierke, Chaplain

The convention was recessed until 1:30 p.m.

Individual Circuit Caucuses to Elect Circuit Counselors

The following circuit caucuses were to be held to elect circuit counselors because of circuit changes by the convention or because a circuit had given no circuit pastor a majority vote in previous voting: Beatrice, Deshler, Falls City, Hastings, Holdrege, Lincoln North, Lincoln South, Omaha South, Omaha West, Seward, Wayne, and West Point.

CONVENTION MINUTES
Friday Afternoon – June 5, 2009

Convention Reconvenes

President Sommerfeld called the afternoon session to order at 1:35 p.m.

Auxiliary Reports – LWML North, LWML South, LLL

Greetings were brought to the District Convention by Mrs. Monique Wolske, President of LWML Nebraska North, Mrs. Sharon Goertzen, President of LWML Nebraska South, and Mr. Burnell Von Seggern, Nebraska North LLL President.

Nebraska District Stewardship Committee – Rev. John Kunze

A survey was taken of convention delegates on questions that will assist the Nebraska District Stewardship Committee in its future work.

District Missions Report – Rev. Rich Boring

Rev. Boring cited Philippians 1:3-6 focusing on partnership in the gospel. He gave an update on Hispanic missions in Grand Island, Lexington, North Platte, and Omaha; new churches in Columbus, Seward, and Lincoln; and outreach efforts to American Indians in Winnebago. He said the District wants to connect LCMS students with college campus ministries in Kearney, Lincoln, Omaha, and Wayne. Efforts are also underway to plant new churches, partner with the Minnesota South District in Sudanese ministry, and to transform rural communities through a network of LCMS congregations.

Nominations Committee – Rev. Charles Gierke

Floor nominations for a layperson on the Synodical Committee for Convention Nominations were received as follows: ElRoy Bartels, Peggy Beyer, Kermit Brashear, Doug Durbin, Kevin Fry, Joyce Gierke, Lorris Haarberg, Dorothy Harmony, Rodney Muench, Delmer Toebben, Glenn Van Velson, and Burnell Von Seggern. It was MOVED and SECONDED to accept the ballot with these names on it. The President closed the nominations.

Rev. Charles Gierke presented the ballot for the election of two ordained ministers on the District Constitution Committee (pages 92-93 of the convention workbook). It was MOVED and SECONDED to accept the ballot as presented. The President closed the nominations.

Rev. Charles Gierke presented the ballot for the election of a commissioned minister on the District Constitution Committee (page 93 of the convention workbook). It was MOVED and SECONDED to accept the ballot as presented. The President closed the nominations.

Rev. Charles Gierke presented the ballot for the election of a lay member on the District Constitution Committee (page 94 of the convention workbook). It was MOVED and SECONDED to accept the ballot as presented. The President closed the nominations.

Rev. Charles Gierke presented the ballot for the election of an ordained minister to the Board of Regents – Concordia University, Seward (pages 94-95 of the convention workbook). It was MOVED and SECONDED to accept the ballot as presented. The President closed the nominations.

Rev. Charles Gierke presented the ballot for the election of a commissioned minister to the Board of Regents – Concordia University, Seward (pages 95-96 of the convention workbook). It was MOVED and SECONDED to accept the ballot as presented. The President closed the nominations.

Rev. Charles Gierke presented the ballot for the election of a lay member to the Board of Regents – Concordia University, Seward (pages 96-97 of the convention workbook). It was MOVED and SECONDED to accept the ballot as presented. The President closed the nominations.

Approval of Minutes – Rev. Terell Huber

Rev. Terell Huber, Chairman of the Minutes Committee, reported for this committee. It was MOVED and SECONDED to approve the minutes from the Thursday evening session of the convention. MOTION CARRIED.

Election Committee – Rev. Allen Bergstrazer

Rev. Tim Gierke, convention chaplain, led the convention in prayer before this round of voting.

The Committee MOVED for ratification of the slate of circuit counselors. The MOTION CARRIED. Slate as follows:

Ainsworth	Rev. John Ryding (Christ, O’Neill)
Beatrice	Rev. Paul Beyer (Immanuel, Daykin)
Columbus	Rev. Terry Timm (Zion, Leigh)
Deshler	Rev. Richard Kelm (Faith, Hebron)
Falls City	Rev. Robert Schermbeck (St. Peter, Elk Creek)
Fremont	Rev. Bruce Schut (St. Peter, Scribner)
Grand Island	Rev. Glen Keylon (Christ, Cairo)
Hastings	Rev. Paul Dunbar (Faith, Hastings)
Holdrege	Rev. Jeff Ernstmeyer (Our Redeemer, Elwood)
Kearney	Rev. Dean Hanson (Grace, Pleasanton, and Faith, Hazard)
Lincoln North	Rev. Craig Whitson (St. Paul, Malcolm)
Lincoln South	Rev. Jeffrey Bloom (Immanuel, Lincoln)
McCook	Rev. Paul Warneke (St. John, Curtis)
Norfolk	Rev. Frank “Chip” Winter (Christ, Norfolk)
Omaha North	Rev. Richard Gudgel (Mount Calvary, Omaha)
Omaha South	Rev. Karl Ziegler (First, Papillion)
Omaha West	Rev. Gary Werling (Good Shepherd, Gretna)
Plainview	Rev. David Kuhfal (Grace, Neligh, and Trinity, Elgin)
Seward	Rev. David Palomaki (Redeemer, David City, and Immanuel, Rising City)
Wayne	Rev. William Engebretsen (Immanuel, Laurel)
West Point	Rev. James Carretto (St. Paul, Wisner)
Western Sandhills	Rev. Robert Pierce (St. John, Ogallala)
York	Rev. Kurt Letcher (Immanuel, Polk)

Rev. Allen Bergstrazer presented the ballot for District Secretary. The vote was taken with the following results:

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>
Rev. Roland Jank, Jr.	144	163 (elected)
Rev. David Kuhfal	105	127
Rev. David List	50	

Rev. Allen Bergstrazer presented the ballot for commissioned minister member (Area 1) of the Nebraska District Board of Directors. The vote was taken with the following results:

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>
David Beikmann	22	17	14	11	8
Rhonda Burk	75	104	124	148	169 (elected)
Mervin Dehning	13	9	9	1	
Stan Fehlhafer	67	84	85	90	82
Daniel Harries	9	5			
David Koopman	34	35	30	23	21
Eunice McCarty	11	8	5		
Dennis Rosenthal	29	21	22	12	8
Stan Wehling	19	12	9	12	11
Charles Zehendner	6				

Rev. Allen Bergstrazer presented the ballot for District Board of Directors lay member for Region A. The vote was taken with the following results:

Richard Kreutzer – 138
Glenn Van Velson – 145 (elected)

Rev. Allen Bergstrazer presented the ballot for District Board of Directors lay member for Region B. The vote was taken with the following results:

John Huff – 101
David Knorr – 184 (elected)

Rev. Allen Bergstrazer presented the ballot for District Board of Directors lay member for Region C. The vote was taken with the following results:

Rodney Repenning – 139
Virginia Von Seggern – 145 (elected)

Rev. Allen Bergstrazer presented the ballot for District Board of Directors lay member for Region D. The vote was taken with the following results:

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
Ray Aerni	38	23	10
Lowell Bloemker	48	48	33
Keith Crandall	31		
Harlan Metschke	78	130	170 (elected)
Kennard Pohlman	35	22	
Louis Riva	54	69	82

Convention Keynote – Rev. Jack Preus

Dr. Preus resumed his presentation “Full of Grace – Seasoned with Salt” with a section on “Dealing With Difference.” We are not good at dealing with differences in our Synod. Some people are whole-hearted advocates of diversity, ignoring the need for unity, while others advocate only for unity, accepting no diversity. God himself shows us both unity and diversity. In Genesis 1:26 God says, “Let US make man in OUR image ...” God is one in substance and three in persons. Therefore, there can be nothing inherently wrong about unity and diversity existing together. God also created “man” (unity) as male and female (diversity), and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply (more diversity). And the one God also created a diverse variety of plant and animal life (Gen. 1:27-31). In Genesis 2:18-25, God makes a woman from the rib of a man to provide a suitable helper for Adam. So God ordained the differences between men and women, with the woman’s difference from man seen as complementary. The one-flesh union of man and woman in holy marriage reunites the two as one.

Summary points:

- Unity and diversity are inherent in God himself.
- Because God created humans in his own image, we can observe the importance of unity and diversity in God’s creation of human beings.
- We can discern a similar pattern in God’s creation of all things. One God, through his one Word, creates a vast diversity of things.

The Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synodical Structure and Governance – Rev. John Braunersreuther

Rev. Braunersreuther, a member of the task force, provided a survey to the delegates and guests, asking their view on task force proposals for changes in synodical structure and governance. Rev. Braunersreuther explained each proposal and invited the audience to respond on their surveys. He then took questions from the audience.

Conversations of Grace – Rev. Rich Boring

A video showed individuals who talked about their faith sharing experiences.

Treasurer’s Report – Mr. Paul Pettit

President Sommerfeld introduced Mr. Paul Pettit, District treasurer, to the convention. He referenced the most recent audit report in the convention workbook. The present Statement of Financial Position was shared. The last two years have seen a significant decline in our overall position. Stock market changes have contributed greatly to this situation.

Elections Committee – Rev. Allen Bergstrazer

Rev. Allen Bergstrazer presented the ballot of ordained ministers for the District Nominations Committee. The vote was taken with the following results:

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
Rev. Donald Becker	16	14	12
Rev. Paul Beyer	82	105	141 (elected)
Rev. Loren Cooper	25	17	10
Rev. David Dobbertien	17	15	6
Rev. Charles Gierke	65	82	77
Rev. Robert Kuefner, Jr.	20	27	23
Rev. Michael Neidow	16	7	
Rev. Michael Reiners	8		

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>
Rev. Donald Becker	24	11
Rev. Loren Cooper	58	67
Rev. David Dobbertien	9	3
Rev. Charles Gierke	110	146 (elected)
Rev. Robert Kuefner, Jr.	46	31
Rev. Michael Neidow	6	
Rev. Michael Reiners	11	9

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>
Rev. Donald Becker	10	6
Rev. Loren Cooper	132	159 (elected)
Rev. David Dobbertien	13	8
Rev. Robert Kuefner, Jr.	89	86
Rev. Michael Neidow	13	8
Rev. Michael Reiners	10	

Closing Prayer – Chaplain – Rev. Tim Gierke

The convention was adjourned until Saturday, June 6, at 7:45 a.m.

**CONVENTION MINUTES
Saturday Morning – June 6, 2009**

Convention Reconvenes

President Sommerfeld called the Saturday morning session to order at 7:50 a.m. A motion to revise the orders of the day was MOVED and SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED. Rev. Tim Gierke, convention chaplain, led us in an opening prayer.

Bible Study – Rev. Keith Grimm

Rev. Keith Grimm led a Bible study on Colossians 4:7-18 entitled “With a Little Help from My Friends.”

Convention Keynote – Rev. Dr. Jack Preus

In his final segment on “Dealing with Difference” Dr. Preus drew from Ephesians 4:1-16. He addressed the challenge of balancing unity and diversity as we, a church body with Germanic and Scandinavian roots, reach out to people from different backgrounds. In Ephesians 4, Paul emphasizes the necessity of unity (vv. 4-6) and the diversity of gifts within the body of Christ (v. 11). Unity is essential, but diversity is likewise necessary. Until we as a Synod understand this we won’t make widespread inroads in communicating the gospel to people who are different from us. We must not compromise our theology, but we must discern the difference between theology and culture. It won’t do to say, “If you want to be a Lutheran, you have to give up, culturally, what you are.”

LCMS World Mission Report – Dr. Daniel Mattson

President Sommerfeld introduced Dr. Daniel Mattson, a representative of the LCMS World Mission staff. Dr. Mattson gave an overview of our church body’s work all around the world. We have career missionaries, military chaplains, international educators, long-term and short-term missionaries, and staff working to spread the Gospel

of Jesus Christ. Several areas of our work were highlighted. He thanked the Nebraska District for its participation in the *Fan into Flame* effort to support mission work here and abroad.

Lutheran Family Services – Mrs. Ruth Henrichs

President Sommerfeld introduced Mrs. Ruth Henrichs, President and CEO of Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska. She began her presentation with a video and told several stories of the difference our shared ministry in LFS has made in the lives of Nebraska families. Mrs. Henrichs expressed thanks to the delegates for their continued partnership.

Elections Committee – Rev. Allen Bergstrazer

The ballot for commissioned minister on the District Nominations Committee was presented. The vote was taken with the following results:

Linda Ahrens – 138 (elected)
Dean Plummer – 115

The ballot for lay members on the District Nominations Committee was presented. The vote was taken with the following results:

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
Steve Althouse	44	35	28
ElRoy Bartels	65	77	69
Ronald Fritz	36	16	14
Lorna Hollman	12		
Ron Vonderohe	24	13	
Burnell Von Seggern	79	123	155 (elected)

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>
Steve Althouse	65	46
ElRoy Bartels	130	182 (elected)
Ronald Fritz	29	22
Lorna Hollman	14	
Ron Vonderohe	26	17

Steve Althouse – 145 (elected)
Ronald Fritz – 64
Lorna Hollman – 37
Ron Vonderohe – 20

The ballot for ordained ministers on the Constitution and Handbook Committee was presented. The vote was taken with the following results:

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>
Rev. James Carretto	109	172 (elected)
Rev. Terell Huber	56	36
Rev. Timothy Prince	38	
Rev. Jim Rasmussen	62	63

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>
Rev. Terell Huber	103	115
Rev. Timothy Prince	41	
Rev. Jim Rasmussen	123	152 (elected)

The ballot for commissioned minister on the Constitution and Handbook Committee was presented. The vote was taken with the following results:

Jo Lambrecht – 117
Wilbur Tewes – 139 (elected)

The ballot for lay member on the Constitution and Handbook Committee was presented. The vote was taken with the following results:

Mark Fahleson – 115
Richard Kreutzer – 148 (elected)

The ballot for ordained minister on the Board of Regents – Concordia University, Seward was presented. The vote was taken with the following results:

Rev. Alan Harre – 112
Rev. Karl Ziegler – 145 (elected)

The ballot for commissioned minister on the Board of Regents – Concordia University, Seward, was presented. The vote was taken with the following results:

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>
James Knoepfel	126	160 (elected)
Darla Rosendahl	90	101
Paula Wehling	43	

The ballot for the election of a lay member on the Board of Regents – Concordia University, Seward, was presented. The vote was taken with the following results:

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>
Mike Klintworth	76	77
Ned Meier	42	
Lyle Middendorf	86	148 (elected)
Ron Vonderohe	44	40

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>
Mike Klintworth	127	164 (elected)
Ned Meier	50	
Ron Vonderohe	78	88

The ballot for the election of a lay member on Synodical Committee for Convention Nominations was presented. The vote was taken with the following results:

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
ElRoy Bartels	23	23	14
Peggy Beyer	22	15	11
Kermit Brashear	58	94	136 (elected)
Doug Durbin	0		
Kevin Fry	35	45	52
Joyce Gierke	11	6	3
Lorris Haarberg	23	21	18
Dorothy Harmony	17	10	6
Rodney Muench	16	7	4
Delmer Toeppen	5	2	
Glenn Van Velson	30	24	15
Burnell Von Seggern	29	23	8

The ballot for the election of an alternate lay member on Synodical Committee for Convention Nominations was presented. The vote was taken with the following results:

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>
ElRoy Bartels	29	19
Peggy Beyer	17	11
Doug Durbin	7	3
Kevin Fry	95	140 (elected)
Joyce Gierke	4	
Lorris Haarberg	24	19
Dorothy Harmony	8	4
Rodney Muench	18	9
Delmer Toebben	5	2
Glenn Van Velson	31	37
Burnell Von Seggern	29	18

Patriot Award – Rev. Rodney Armon

Chaplains from the Nebraska District were introduced to the convention by Colonel Rodney Armon, State Chaplain for the Nebraska State National Guard. President Sommerfeld was presented with the Patriot Award for his support of our National Guard chaplains in service to our country.

Floor Committee #1 – Rev. Ron Holling

Resolution #1.02 (Overture #1.03) The Committee moved that this resolution as amended be tabled. This motion was SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution #1.03 (Overtures #1.02, #1.04, and #1.05). “To Acknowledge *Issues, Etc.*” The Committee MOVED adoption. An amendment was MOVED on line 26 to add the words “financial and other” after the word “consider.” This motion was SECONDED. This MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED. Another amendment was MOVED and SECONDED to delete on line 13 the words “in the past has demonstrated” and replace them with “demonstrates.” On line 17 to delete the words “promotes itself as” and to replace them with “is.” This MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED. Another amendment was MOVED and SECONDED to add an additional resolve after line 26: “Resolved, that the Nebraska District in convention express to the LCMS its disappointment in the cancelling of *Issues, Etc.*” This MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED. This entire MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED.

Rev. Ron Holling publically thanked the members of this floor committee.

Floor Committee #2 – Rev. Mark Middendorf

Resolution #2.02 (Overture #2.03) “To Form a Task Force to Explore Collaboration and Partnership Ministry with Neighboring LCMS Districts.” The Committee MOVED adoption. The MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution #2.03 (Overture #2.01) “To Thank God and Encourage Support for Walking Together Lutheran Ministries.” The Committee MOVED adoption. The convention agreed to suspend public reading of the remaining resolutions from Floor Committee #2. The MOTION (Resolution #2.03) CARRIED.

Resolution #2.04 (Overture #2.04) “To Recommend the Re-establishment of the Board for Stewardship for LCMS.” The Committee MOVED adoption. The MOTION CARRIED.

Rev. Mark Middendorf publically thanked the members of this floor committee.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund – Mr. Merle Freitag

Mr. Freitag, President and CEO of Lutheran Church Extension Fund, was introduced and reported on the work of LCEF. The organization has provided financing to support international partner churches and missions. Over the past year, LCEF has seen its investment assets decline due to the dip in the stock market, but has continued to make new loans. He encouraged the audience to invest in LCEF financial products.

Conversations of Grace – Rev. Rich Boring

Rev. Boring showed a video clip of Lutherans who reached out to Hispanic immigrants in Omaha through a program that shares the Gospel and provides classes in English. He encouraged the delegates to share the “salt” of God with others.

Approval of Minutes – Rev. Terell Huber

Rev. Terell Huber, Chairman of the Minutes Committee, reported for this committee. It was MOVED and SECONDED to approve the minutes from the Friday morning and evening sessions of the convention with one minor change (the paragraph on Resolution #2.02 under Floor Committee #2 on Friday morning needs to be deleted). MOTION CARRIED.

Installation of Officers

All newly elected District vice presidents, circuit counselors, and board and committee members were installed into office by President Sommerfeld.

Credentials Report – Rev. David List

Rev. David List gave the following final credentials report as follows:

Voting Delegates	349
Advisory Delegates	140
Guests, Staff, Others	125
Total	614

Concordia Publishing House – “Resource Shelf” Presentation

Paul Brunette, director of sales for CPH, was introduced and gave a presentation on the products and resources available to congregations through CPH. Included is a 25-book “Resource Shelf” for pastors. He presented a certificate for that product to IC Mission Church of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Columbus.

What a Way Report

President Sommerfeld briefly reminded the delegates of this program to identify and encourage students as early as elementary school to consider church work as a career.

Service Corps of Lutheran Business Executives – Mr. Lloyd Probasco

Mr. Probasco gave a presentation introducing this new agency to aid ministries. SCOLBE will offer the advice and expertise of Lutheran business executives to provide resources to ministries at an affordable cost.

Thanks and Recognition

President Sommerfeld led the convention in expressing gratitude to outgoing members of the Board of Directors, Concordia University, Seward staff, Mrs. Kathy Paulson (convention banner), St. John Lutheran Church in Seward, Mrs. Nichole Hetz (convention coordinator), and to others who contributed to making this a successful convention.

Closing Remarks

President Sommerfeld encouraged the audience to have conversations full of grace and seasoned with salt, and proclaimed that it is only because of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross that there are such conversations. He thanked the delegates for their cooperation and prayed God’s blessings be upon them.

Closing Send-Off Celebration – Rev. Tim Gierke

Rev. Tim Gierke led the convention in a closing devotion based on Ephesians 1. We sang three stanzas of “Glorious Things of You Are Spoken.”

Adjournment

It was MOVED and SECONDED to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED. The 16th Convention of the Nebraska District was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Roland Jank, Jr. and Rev. Jim Rasmussen
Convention Secretaries