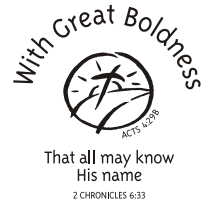


THE BULLETIN

Lutheran Church–Canada Sixth Convention



Volume 1 - No. 3

Saturday, 8 June 2002

SCHEDULE

Today's Events

| | |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| 8:15 a.m. | Devotion |
| 8:30 a.m. | Essay |
| 9:30 a.m. | Convention Business |
| 12:00 p.m. | Lunch |
| 1:30 p.m. | Workshops |
| 3:00 p.m. | Convention Business |
| 6:00 p.m. | Buses Leave Four Points for BBQ |
| 6:30 p.m. | BBQ Supper and Social |

Sunday

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Morning | Sunday Worship Services |
| 1:30 p.m. | Devotion |
| 1:45 p.m. | Convention Business |
| 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. | Open Houses (Lutherwood, LBT, East District Office) |
| 8:00 p.m. | Jazz Hymn Festival (Historic St. Paul's) |

...So that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.

2 Chronicles 6:33b



Representatives pose with synod president after their congregations are accepted as members of Lutheran Church–Canada. (L-R) President Ralph Mayan, Suzy Mead, Pastor Larry Ritter, Ed Keilbart, and Randy Jeworski.

LCC grows by three

by Curtis Schafer

Lutheran Church–Canada welcomed three new congregations into synod yesterday. Delegates overwhelmingly approved resolutions to receive Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Kenora, Ontario, Iglesia Luterana Estrella De Belén, Vancouver and New Beginnings Lutheran Church Regina into membership.

Randy Jeworski represented New Beginnings. He served as congregational president of New Beginnings when it began worshipping as a mission congregation in November 2001. The church was formed by

people from other Lutheran churches in Regina who identified a special need for ministering to the de-churched and unchurched. “We wanted to be intentional about seeking the de-churched...those who have wandered away from the faith...and the unchurched,” Mr. Jeworski observed. At one point, the congregation had considered the name “Genesis Lutheran Church”, but decided that New Beginnings was more understandable to those with limited church exposure.

Ed Keilbart appeared on behalf of Estrella De Belen.

See **Growth** page 2

LCC Approves Changes to Constitution

by Paul A. Walrath

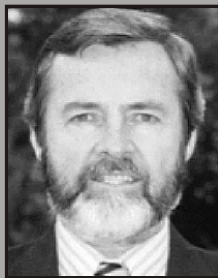
During the second business session, Resolutions Committee 3 (Administration / Constitutional Matters), chaired by Rev. Al Maleske, presented constitution and bylaw changes proposed by the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure (CCMS). These affect how Lutheran Church-Canada will operate. The changes revamp the handbook by removing excess detail, adding clarity, ensuring consistency, and properly

See **Constitution** page 4

ESSAYIST

Rev. Dr. Leonardo Neitzel

A professor at *Igreja Evangélica Luterana do Brasil's* seminary in São Paulo since 1991, Dr. Neitzel has served as Vice-President, Academic Dean, Professor of New Testament, Professor of Missions and other courses in Practical Theology, and Coordinator of the missionary work of seminary students in the surrounding community.



Dr. Neitzel received a bachelor's degree from Concordia Seminary of IELB in South Brazil in 1978, a S.T.M from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1988, and a Ph.D. in Missiology from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 2000, his thesis topic being Households and Missionary work in Northeast Brazil. From 1978-87, Dr. Neitzel initiated missionary work in Fortaleza, in Northeast Brazil. He also performed missionary work in Recife from 1988-90.

Other areas of service include teaching in the TEE (Theological Education by Extension) program of the seminary, leading courses and workshops related to Missions in several parts of Brazil, and writing various studies and articles published in the Seminary magazine, *Vox Concordiana*. Dr. Neitzel was a speaker at the IELB's 57th Convention, April 28-May 3, 2002, and is a member of the Board of Regents of ASTE (Association of Theological Evangelical Seminaries) of Brazil.

Growth continued from page 1

The congregation was started in the mid-'80s by Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Vancouver as an outreach to Spanish immigrants from South and Central America.

Suzy Mead accepted the membership on behalf of Good Shepherd. Good Shepherd began as a mission of the Central District. Reverend Larry Ritter, the Central District's missionary-at-large, is currently serving as pastor to Good Shepherd.

Greetings

His Worship Carl Zehr, mayor of the City of Kitchener, brought greetings to the synod convention on behalf of city council and the citizens of Kitchener. He observed that faith communities play an important role in improving the quality of life of communities and commended our church for its contribution to the Kitchener area. He invited visitors to explore Kitchener and extended best wishes for a productive convention.

Dr. Keischnick, president of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, extended heartfelt greetings from the church's 2.3 million members. He congratulated Lutheran Church-Canada for its success in recruiting and training church workers and serving an increasingly diverse Canadian society. He encouraged LCC to take seriously the mission of proclaiming the Gospel to those who do not know Christ, noting that the church "cannot afford to waste time on incessant internal purification at the expense of the lost in the world." On a lighter note, President Keischnick congratulated President Mayan on his expected re-election and suggested that having one name on the ballot sounded good to him. Dr. Kieschnick went on to explain that his own election to the office of the president was the result of a 50.3% majority!

Vice-President Susan Johnson, on behalf of Bishop Ray Schultz, brought greetings from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). Mindful of the impending vote regarding "interim eucharistic fellowship" between the ELCIC and LCC, Vice-President Johnson likened the relationship between church bodies to a family. "We don't have to like each other, but loving each other is mandatory," she observed. "It is out of love that the ELCIC has issued an invitation to share eucharistic fellowship with you. Whatever your decision, we will continue to claim you as family." Vice-President Johnson gave assurance that members of the ELCIC will continue praying for LCC and asked LCC to remember the ELCIC in its prayers.

In the morning business papers, delegates also received greetings and best wishes from The Office of the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Jean Chretien, and from the Honourable Ernie Eves, Premier of Ontario.

Speaker Gifts

Guest speakers and essayists at the convention receive handcrafted plaques bearing the convention logo. Duncan Anderson of Faith, Kitchener designed and crafted the plaques. We trust our guests will find them a meaningful reminder of their time with us.

Barbeque

Buses leave from the front of Four Points for tonight's BBQ beginning at 6:00 p.m. The evening includes entertainment and fellowship. Dress is casual.

Sunday Worship

Delegates requiring transportation to and from Sunday worship should go to the hotel lobby for pick up approximately one-half hour before the appropriate scheduled service. Your friendly neighborhood dispatcher, Roy Schmitt, will assist with matching drivers and delegates.

President's Report

The prayer of the early church reflected in the theme verse provided the focus of President Ralph Mayan's report to convention. "We now face a society like that faced by first century Christians," explained President Mayan. Quoting President

Emeritus Dr. Ed Lehman he noted: "Our society is not on friendly terms with the Christian Church, but that is not a bad place to be." President Mayan indicated that, like the early Christians, we must not depend on our own power, but on the power of the Holy Spirit; not on our own numbers, but on the cross of Christ.

President Mayan challenged LCC to focus on being a strong biblical and confessional church, a strong missionary church and a strong caring church. He urged the church to reach out to the lost, to care for people and share the Gospel of Christ. He encouraged the church to pray continually for God to enable us to speak His Word with great boldness, trusting that God will answer the prayer of His people.

Rev. Dr. Mayan has served as LCC's president since 1996.

INFO SESSIONS

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Seminaries | Grand Ballroom |
| Concordia University College | Trillium C |
| Int'l Lutheran Laymen's League | Kitchener 3 |
| LWML-Canada | Trillium A |
| Worker Benefit Plans | Kitchener 2 |
| Districts | Trillium B |
| Canadian Lutheran World Relief | Kitchener 4 |

ELECTION RESULTS

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| President | Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan |
| First Vice-President | Rev. Dan Rinderknecht, Stony Plain, Alberta |
| Second Vice-President | Rev. James Fritsche, Winnipeg, Man. |
| Third Vice-President | Rev. Robert Krestick, Waterloo, Ont. |

Donour Appreciation

The convention **carry bags and binders** are a gift from Lutheran Life, the church extension funds of the ABC, Central and East Districts and Lutheran Church-Canada Financial Ministries. We are most grateful for their generous support.

The **copy machines** in the convention office were made available to Lutheran Church-Canada through the kind generosity of IKON Business Systems, Kitchener office and Mr. Glen Coutts.

The **flowers** in the registration and

refreshments area are a gift from LWML-Canada, East District. Floral arrangements for the opening worship service and in the convention business sessions were created by Petals 'n' Pots.

The following businesses and friends of Lutheran Church-Canada have supported our convention **coffee breaks** with their donations:

- Erb & Erb Insurance
- Mr. Richard Meunier Q.C. of Miller Thomson
- MTD Products
- KPMG
- TD Canada Trust
- GFI Control Systems Inc.



Photo by Chris Bruer, 2002

Students from Christ Lutheran School, Kitchener, led the convention in hymn-singing prior to Friday morning's business session. The students also performed three musical numbers. (L-r) Principal Simon Jaynes (Director), and students Peter Lanigan, Eric Moffett, Meghan Lanigan, Kristen Kahle, Madeleine Broderick, Kate Moffett, September Lanigan, and Tim Lanigan.

The goods on Board Forums

by Henrietta Schafer

Did you get “goodies” at the Board Forum you attended? I stopped in at six of the seven forums offered Friday afternoon and give a thumb-up to the joint presentation by Board for Parish Services / Board for Communication Services who handed out “building block Smarties” as a reminder of the theme for the 2004 youth gathering! Meeting in these small groups allows people who have committed time and energy to developing specific ministry branches within our church to distribute more detailed information. It is easy as questions in a less formal atmosphere and allows people to choose subjects that interest them. As delegates left the rooms I “polled the audience” for some comments.

Board of Managers-Worker Benefits: “They used good audio/visual tools and clearly answered every question.”

Pastor Bob Krestick, Redeemer, Waterloo

Board for Mission and Social Ministry Services: “I loved the way they talked about outreach in Canada and throughout the world. LCC is not passive in this area—they are doing something!” *Pastor Neitzel, Sao Paulo Brazil* who wrote “Jesus me ama - Eu amo Jesus” (Jesus loves me - I love Jesus) and John 3:16 on my notepaper in Portuguese!

Board for Higher Education: “It is good for the group to listen and share. Our church has a sincere concern with training and equipping workers to do something about the shortage.” *Pastor Michael Dorn, Prince of Peace, Calgary*

Board of Directors: “I feel there is a great deal of interest in the changes to the Constitution and bylaws which have been fine tuned. We are moving from a modification of LCMS’ big church body constitution to something compatible with us.” *Wayne Bjorndahl, Regina*

Board for Parish Services / Board for Communication Services: “The Powerpoint presentation and slide shows

of the school, youth and young adult events brought the need and excitement to life!” *Nicole Otterman, youth delegate, Fisherville, Ontario*

Commission on Theology and Church Relations: “A lot of debate is happening in convention but good things come out of it.” *Pastor Elmer Mushumanski, Beamsville, Ontario*



Photo by Chris Bruer, 2002

Pastor Elmer Mushumanski

Constitution continued from page 1

separating the church’s ecclesiastical and corporate functions. The structural changes were mandated by the 1999 convention.

The changes will create a new section in the handbook called “Statutory Bylaws.” These outline the corporate nature of the church body and define items such as membership, conventions, officers, committees, and the authority and structure of Board of Directors. As a result, the president of LCC will now serve as CEO in addition to his ecclesiastical duties. The number of mandated councils is reduced and elected program boards eliminated. Many of these functions will be carried out

by appointed committees.

After the floor committee presented the resolutions to amend the constitution, delegates were invited to discuss the details and propose amendments. Due to the length of the discussion, delegates approved a motion extending the time allotted for deliberations. This allowed the convention to vote on the resolutions before the evening session concluded. Most questions were dealt with by CCMS chairman Rev. Nolan Astley. Although several amendments were proposed, none were approved.

Acceptance of the new statutory bylaws and constitution substantially changes the election process which begins today.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Someone once said to me: “The problem with your church is that you are stuck in the 15th century.” I answered: “It’s worse than that. It goes back much further than that!” [referring to the first century church.]

President Ralph Mayan during the President’s Report to Convention

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