

Lutheran CORE Convocation  
August 26-27, 2010  
Grove City, Ohio

The Convocation of Lutheran CORE gathered at Grove City Church of the Nazarene. 1104 attendees registered, of whom 875 were members of Lutheran CORE.

The convocation began with a celebration of Holy Communion, Pr. Paull Spring presiding. At 2:47 the business session was called to order.

Rules of procedure were moved. It was clarified who is a voting member, and was announced that those who wish may register their abstention from voting on matters pertaining to the formation of the North American Lutheran Church (list attached as appendix). Rule #10 was revised by common consent to add regarding a third ballot, "those two including ties."

An amendment was offered to the note concerning Rule 16 to replace "pastor" with "delegate." This was accepted by the mover and seconder as a friendly amendment and the change was made.

With those changes, the Rules of Procedure were adopted.

The agenda was moved and seconded.

An amendment was proposed to move ratification of the constitution to session 4. As the voice vote was inconclusive, there was a show of hands. The motion to amend was defeated.

The agenda was then adopted as presented.

Pr. Paul Ulring welcomed us to Columbus.

Visitors were introduced:

from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Pr. Marcus Kunz and Ms. Myrna Sheie, along with ELCA Board of Pensions representative Bp. Robert Berg.

from the ELCA West Virginia Western Maryland Synod, Pr. Gerald Kliner and Pr. Beth Westphal.

from Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, President Larry Lindstrom.

from the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Pr. Larry Vogel.

from the Roman Catholic Church, Fr. James Massa.

from the Lutheran Church Mekane Yesus, Dr. Francis Stephanos.

from the Anglican Church in North America, Bishops Ray Sutton, Roger Ames, Winfield Mott, and Wesley Nolden.

from the Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Kanagwe Diocese, Bp. Benson Bagonza.

A letter was read from the Rev. Sam Guido of the Lutheran Orthodox Church.

Nominations were opened for Lutheran CORE positions of moderator, secretary, and treasurer. No additional nominations were presented. Richard Mathisen was nominated from the floor for the Steering Committee. Moved, seconded, and adopted to close nominations.

Nominations were opened for the North American Lutheran Church. No additional nominations were received. Moved, seconded, and adopted to close nominations.

After a break, Bp. Ray Sutton brought greetings from ACNA.

Ryan Schwarz then reported on Our Common Future: Vision and Planning. The chair announced that this and the other reports would be received as information. Ryan said that reconfiguration has begun, reconfiguration is accelerating, and our common future will be a reconfigured Lutheranism in North America. There will be a fundamental transition of relationship priorities. He noted the four key attributes of both NALC and L-CORE: they will be Christ-centered, Mission-driven, Traditionally-grounded, and Congregationally-focused.

Executive Director Mark Chavez presented his report.

We recessed with a hymn and a prayer.

After dinner, we reconvened with a hymn and prayer.

Dr. Stephanos brought greetings from the Mekane Yesus Church.

Elections were then held. It was moved and seconded that "in order to establish staggered terms for L-CORE's Steering Committee, the four candidates with the largest vote count be elected to a two year term, that the four candidates receiving the next largest vote count be elected to a one year term, and that the four candidates receiving the least vote count not be elected." So ordered.

The first ballot was held and declared closed.

Ken Kimball reported on Our Common Future: Mission and Benevolence Working Group.

Mark Braaten reported on Our Common Future: Congregational Life Working Group.

Ralph Whittenburg presented the proposed budget for Lutheran CORE. Moved and seconded that the budget for 2011 be adopted. So ordered.

Jim Gale presented the proposed Constitution for Lutheran CORE.

Moved to amend Chapter 2, Section 2.02.c of the proposed Lutheran CORE Constitution to delete the phrase "God's Spirit from the second and third sentences, and

to insert in their places the words, "the Holy Spirit." This was seconded and adopted, but see note below.

Moved that a new 4.03 be added saying, "Lutheran CORE shall work for the reform and renewal of the Lutheran community and will advocate for Biblical authority and Lutheran confessional identity." It was suggested that the amendment instead should be in 4.01d, to add to the end, "and will advocate for Biblical authority and Lutheran confessional identity." The mover and seconder agreed, and the amendment was adopted in this form.

Moved and seconded to revise 4.01f to read "... (Matthew 28:18-20) and the two Great Commandments (Mark 12:30) as priorities in the life of ..."

A point of order was then raised regarding the amendment process.

Regarding the motion regarding 2.02c. This needs to be amended following the process in the Constitution adopted last year, which needs 10 signers and would serve as a first reading, to be considered for adoption next year. The motion to amend 4.01f would then also qualify as first reading if so presented with signatures. The ruling was challenged to note that the proposed Constitution calls for 25 signatures. It was determined that the number under the operative document is 10.

The question was raised regarding the removal of 5.01d from the Constitution adopted last year. It was explained that this is in the NALC proposed Constitution.

Moved to table the vote on the Constitution to allow time for amendments to receive 10 signatures and be voted on at this Convocation. The amendment was withdrawn after conversation.

The amendment to 2.02c was then presented with 11 signatures and adopted on the first reading.

The amendment to 4.01d was ruled to be in order because it did not change the present document but retained something that had been proposed to be deleted.

The previous question was moved and adopted.

The proposed Constitution for Lutheran CORE was adopted.

The session recessed with a hymn and prayer.

Friday morning the Convocation re-convened at 8:40 am with a hymn and prayer.

President Larry Lindstrom brought greetings from LCMC.

The results of the first ballot for Steering Committee were reported:

772 ballots were cast, 1 was invalid. Elected to a two-year term Perez 673; Baro 615; Brown 571; and Johnsen 523. Elected to a one-year term Pleuss 506, Kickingbird 494, Brandt 488, and Mathisen 475. Not elected Berthelsen 431, Nelson 419, Stack 403, and Smith 341. 50% of ballots cast would be 386.

Moved and seconded that the secretary cast a ballot for all officers unopposed in Lutheran CORE and NALC slates. So ordered.

Lutheran CORE: Moderator Paul T. Ulring; Secretary W. Stevens Shipman; Treasurer Ralph Whittenburg. North American Lutheran Church: Bishop Paull E. Spring; Executive Council lay James Hansen, Carol Lattier, Ryan M. Schwarz, and Kay Johnson Weaver; Executive Council clergy Donald R. Allman, N. Amanda Grimmer, Victor C. Langford III, and Jim Lehmann; Court of Adjudication Richard F. Currey, Jon E. Evans, James Gale, Jeffrey Greene, Ralph Kempinski, Carolyn Nestingen, and Ronald B. Warren.

The chair declared the above persons (including Steering Committee) elected to their respective positions.

Pr. Ulring and Bishop-elect Spring addressed the Convocation.

Chair Paull Spring installed the officers of Lutheran CORE.

Mark Chavez reported on Our Common Future: Organization Working Group.

Paull Spring reported on Our Common Future: Ministry Processes.

After a break, the chair ruled that elections to the Steering Committee came under the provisional Constitution adopted last year.

Resolution 6 regarding the NALC Constitution was moved and seconded. Kenneth Sauer presented three changes:

2.02c replace "God's Spirit" with "the Holy Spirit" the two places it appears.

16.02 correct "Chapter 13" to "Article 16."

17.03 and 17.04, add second sentence: "Amendments to articles 1, 5, and 9-16 of this Constitution prior to becoming effective must be ratified in a similar manner by a majority vote of the member congregations of the NALC."

These changes were included in the motion by common consent

Bp. Sauer requested that suggested changes be submitted in writing and referred to the Executive Council, and that the Convocation not attempt to amend it this year.

Moved and seconded to strike 4.05 from the proposed Constitution.

The previous question was moved, seconded, and adopted.

The motion was defeated.

A motion regarding the bishop was declared as a referral, as motions are out of order

when a main motion is on the floor.

Moved and seconded that 17.03 be amended to change "approved" to "rejected."

The previous question was moved, seconded, and adopted.

The motion was defeated.

As a point of personal privilege, the request was made that delegates be given the opportunity to sign the Constitution, which effectively will be the charter of the NALC.

The Chair indicated that a way would be provided.

Moved and seconded to add, "Pastors under call to congregations which are not members of the NALC are eligible for inclusion on the NALC roll of the ordained clergy under standards as determined by the Executive Council."

Moved and seconded to refer to the Executive Council. Referral was adopted.

The motion to approve the Provisional Constitution as amended was then adopted.

Prayer and singing the Doxology followed this action.

The correct website address was announced as TheNALC.org. The "the" is critical.

It was announced that audio recordings of the major presentations at the Theological Conference will be posted on the website. The book may be available within three months.

The session recessed with a hymn and prayer.

After lunch, the Convocation gathered with a hymn and prayer.

Moved and seconded "That the NALC prepare a Scripture-based statement on the ordination of women, a statement on divorce of clergy, and a statement on abortion by our next Convocation to provide a basis and guidance for our ongoing and future discussion."

Moved and seconded to refer favorably to the Executive Council. So ordered.

Pioneer congregations that have voted to join the NALC were recognized. Those who join any time until the next Convocation will be founding members. A gift was presented from St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Charleston, West Virginia, one of the pioneer congregations.

David Wendel reported on Our Common Future: Theological Education Working Group.

The proposed budget for the North American Lutheran Church was moved and seconded. A request from the floor was that education and support for seminarians be considered in the future. The budget was adopted.

Bob Benne reported on Our Common Future: Theological Education Working Group. He noted that their recommendations have been referred to both the Executive Council and the Steering Committee.

Resolutions 7, 8, and 9 were each moved, seconded, and adopted.

Anne Gleason was recognized for her hard and excellent work, especially in planning this week's events.

A provision for signing the Constitution after the closing worship was announced.

The correct phone number for the Institute of Lutheran Theology is 605-692-9337.

The service was announced to begin at 3:00, as all business was concluded.

Moved and seconded to thank all who put their time, effort, resources, into putting this together. Adopted by acclamation.

The Convocation adjourned its business and concluded with worship. Bishop Bergonza preached, Bishop Spring and the other officers of the NALC were installed.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Stevens Shipman, Secretary of Lutheran CORE

note: please send additions and corrections to [prsteveshipman@gmail.com](mailto:prsteveshipman@gmail.com)

Addendum: List of those abstaining from votes regarding formation of the North American Lutheran Church (in order received):

W. Stevens Shipman, Jr.  
Martin E. Matthis  
Scott S. Custead  
Kenneth F. Tegtmeier  
Michael D. Bennett  
Ed Broestz  
Roger Gorden  
David A. Rike  
Karen E. Knutson  
Richard O. Johnson  
Corrine R. Johnson  
Thomas A. Nibbe  
Harold A. Watrous  
Alden W. Towberman  
Michael E. Johnson  
Linda L. R. Reichstadter

Steven P. Tibbetts  
Mark A. Fischer  
Carol S. Hendrix  
Keith M. Falk  
Susan R. V. Gunderson  
Carter Askren  
Keith L. Forni  
Thomas C. Knutson  
Larry Cudmore  
Ronald A. Orovitz  
Robert Ericson  
David G. Berg  
Paula L. Murray  
Paul R. Hinlicky  
Christopher Luke Seamon  
Mark A. Werner

Brett Jenkins, STS  
Thomas D. Pearson  
William E. White  
Richard Pearson  
Erma S. Wolf, STS  
Richard A. Mathisen

Jacquelyn Michel Pearson  
Glenn M. Zorb  
Heidi Kvanli  
Roger G. Keller  
Steve Brown

A signed list of these abstentions is in the secretary's records.

