

Thursday, August 16, 2012
Session 1

Service of the Word: The 2012 convocation was called to worship at 2 pm by The Reverend Dr. Cathi Braasch. The Convocation began with Bishop Edward L. Salmon, Jr. leading the worship. The service bulletin is attached to the Recording Secretary's minutes.

Bishop John Bradosky, Bishop of the NALC, called the meeting to order and welcomed the members and guests to the Convocation at 2:57 pm.

Adoption of rules of procedure, resolution no. 1: A motion that the rules of procedure distributed at this Convocation be adopted as the rules of procedure for the 2012 Convocation was made by the Recording Secretary.

Motioned, seconded and approved

Adoption of agenda, resolution no. 2:

A motion that the agenda proposed for this Convocation be adopted as the agenda for the 2012 Convocation made by the Recording Secretary

Motioned, seconded and approved

Approval of the Minutes of the 2011 Convocation: The minutes of the 2011 Convocation, held at Upper Arlington Lutheran Church on August 11-12, 2011 were presented and approved.

Motioned, seconded and approved

Welcome from our Host Congregation: Pastor Steve Dornbusch, Senior Pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church, welcomed the NALC convocation.

Introductions and Greetings by Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry David Wendel:

1. Ecumenical Guests – Ecumenical guests recognized were:
 - Bishop Salmon/Nashota House
 - The Rt. Reverend Ray Sutton, Bishop Coadjutor, Ecumenical Officer, Anglican Church in North America.
 - The Rt. Reverend Win Mott, Bishop of the Diocese of the West, ACNA.
 - The Reverend Dr. Marcus Kunz, Assistant to the Bishop / Executive for Theological Discernment Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Chicago, IL
 - The Reverend Don McCoid, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop, Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Chicago, IL.
 - The Most Reverend Robert Duncan, Archbishop and Primate of the Anglican Church in North America, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh.
 - Father James Erich Rutten, Representing the U.S. Roman Catholic Conference of Bishops and Timothy Cardinal Dolan, president of the Conference.

- The Reverend Larry Vogel, Associate Executive Director, Commission on Theology & Church Relations The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- The Reverend Kip Tyler, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, Chair of the Board of Trustees.
- The Reverend Dr. Robert Bugbee, President, Lutheran Church-Canada, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.
- The Reverend Timothy J. Swenson, Augsburg Lutheran Churches. Bishop Edward L. Salmon, Jr., Dean of Nashotah House Theological Seminary, Nashotah, Wisconsin.

Floor nominations: Pastor Carl Haynes presented the slate of candidates for the elected positions open during this convocation. The nominating Committee this year consisted of Reverend David Baer, Reverend Chris Nevis, Ms. Rachael Sosebee, Reverend Michael Tamorria, Reverend Mark Chavez, and Reverend Carl Haynes (Chair). Nominated for the 4-Year Lay Position on the Executive Council were James L. Hansen (incumbent), Bruce Leep, and Frank Polkowski. Nominated for the 4-Year Clergy position on the Executive Council were Reverend Nila G. Cogan, Reverend Victor C. Langford III (Incumbent), and Reverend Mark A. Werner. Bishop Bradosky opened for nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations. It was moved the nominations be closed.

Motioned, seconded and approved that nominations be closed.

Nominated for the Court of Adjudication was Richard F. Currey. Bishop Bradosky opened for nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations. It was moved the nominations be closed.

Motioned, seconded and approved that nominations be closed.

2013 Nominating Committee: Reverend Haynes presented the nominees for the 2013 Nominating Committee

- Reverend David Baer,
- Reverend Chris Nevis,
- Reverend Michael Tamorria,
- Mr. Richard Jansak,
- Mr. Richard Stevens.

There were no additional nominations for the nominating committee. It was moved the nominations be closed.

Motioned, seconded and approved

Ecumenical Greetings – Ecumenical Greeting to the NALC and its convocation were given by:

1. The Most Reverend Robert Duncan, Archbishop of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). Archbishop Duncan welcomed us as sister organizations in the great struggle of our age, staying faithful in the current world.

2. Father James Erich Rutten, representing the U.S. Roman Catholic Conference of Bishops, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Father Rutten welcomed us as partners in the work to preserve the sanctity of life and the sanctity of marriage.

Convocation Chairs: The Convocation Chairs for the 2012 Convocation were recognized. The chairpersons for this convocation are:

1. Worship chairs – Pastor John Scheusner
2. Nomination committee - Reverend Carl Haynes
3. Election Chair – Reverend Ken Kimball
4. Parliamentarian – Bishop Ralph Kempinski
5. Reference and Counsel – Pastor Mark Chavez
6. Facilities – Anne Gleason

Report of the Bishop: The Bishop began with thanks to Bishop Emeritus Paull Spring for his inspiration, hard work and rich legacy. The convocation gave Bishop Spring a standing ovation.

Bishop Bradosky thanked the Commission on Theology and Doctrine, with special thanks to the Reverend Dr. Robert Benne and the Reverend Dr. Carl Braaten.

The remainder of the Bishop's address is in the written report included in the convocation literature and in the draft of the Bishop's address attached to the minutes of the Recording Secretary.

Update on the Canadian Commission: (report attached to the minutes of the Recording Secretary). Bishop Spring called upon Reverend Don Allman, the chair of the Canadian Commission, to update the convocation on the status of the Lutheran Church in Canada. Pastor Allman asked the members of the Canadian churches to stand; then asked the remainder of the congregation to stand as a visible symbol that we were all one church. Pastor Allman then introduced Pastor Phillip Gagnon, Pastor Karl Johnson and Pastor K. Glen Johnson to address the convocation with a slide show highlighting the ongoing work in Canada. They ended with a promotion spot for "[Carl] Braaten & [Robert] Jenson: Uncorked!" Scheduled for April 8-11, 2013, in Canmore, Alberta, Canada.

Partner Ministries: Pastor Chavez introduced our partner ministries. He stressed that we, within the NALC, are not trying to recreate those services that others already do very well; we are utilizing their expertise. There ministries introduced were:

1. DOMA,
2. East European Missions Network,
3. Friends of Madagascar Mission
4. Disaster Services (Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio).
5. Lutheran CORE,
6. Sola Publishing,
7. World Mission Prayer League,

8. Youth Encounter,

Introduction of the staff: Bishop Bradosky introduced the staff. The 2012 staff of the NALC include General Secretary Reverend Mark Chavez, Assistant to the Bishop for Missions Reverend Dr. Gemechis Buba, Assistant to the Bishop for Ministries Reverend David Wendel, Becky Seifert, Anne Gleason, Rachael Sosebee, and Kathy Jacobsen.

He introduced the 2011 Executive Council - Jim Hanson, Carol Lattier, Kay Weaver, Ryan Schwarz, Reverend Victor Langford III, Reverend N. Amanda Grimmer, Reverend Rebecca Heber, and Reverend James Lehmann.

Bishop Bradosky thanked the Deans of each mission district:

- Atlantic MD – Reverend Mike Tavella (Abington, Pennsylvania)
- Carolinas MD – Reverend Carl Haynes (Salisbury, North Carolina)
- Central Pacific MD – Reverend Daniel Selbo (San Jose, California)
- Eastern South Dakota MD – Reverend Randy Eisenbeisz (Hayti, South Dakota)
- Great Plains MD – Reverend Russ Saltzman (Kansas City, Missouri)
- Great Rivers MD – Reverend James Lehman (Thomasboro, Illinois)
- Heartland MD – Reverend Larry Gember (Greenfield, Indiana)
- Iowa MD – Reverend Ken Kimball (Waterville, Iowa)
- Mid-Northeast MD – Reverend Eric Reisen (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)
- Mid-South MD – Reverend William (Bill) White (Memphis, Tennessee)
- Minkota MD – Reverend Tim Lundeen (Erskine, Minnesota)
- North Texas MD – Reverend Mark Braaten (Tyler, Texas)
- Ohio MD – Reverend Dan Powell (Springfield, Ohio)
- Rocky Mountain MD – Reverend Bruce Welander
- Sonshine MD – Reverend Christopher Byars (Dade City, Florida)
- South Texas MD – Reverend David Priem (Fredericksburg, Texas)
- Western Dakotas MD – Reverend David Baer (Whitewood, South Dakota)
- Wisconsin and Upper Michigan MD – Reverend Roy Harrisville III (Menomonie, Wisconsin)
- Alaska, Idaho, and Oregon MD – Reverend Victor Langford III (Seattle Washington)
- Arizona and Southern California MD – Reverend Marvin Combs (Huntington Beach, California)
- Caribbean and Spanish Ministries MD – Reverend Eddy Perez (Miami, Florida)
- Michigan MD – Reverend Tim Loehrke (Pigeon, Michigan)
- Virginia MD – Reverend Richard Mahan (Charleston, West Virginia)

Our faith in Christ has given us a collegial bond in Christ and makes our work go quickly

Report on the Ratifications: The Bishop reported that the congregations have ratified the constitution of the NALC and the Agreement with the EECMY.

NALC Charter Congregations Recognition: The 250 Charter Congregations were recognized with a slide show. The slideshow will be uploaded to our website for download by the congregations.

We were adjourned for dinner with a prayer given by Nicole Collins, Intern, and sang the hymn, "Great is Thy Faithfulness".

Prayer for the second session was offered by Nicole Collins and the Hymn "Victorious" was sung.

7:00 pm. The Convocation was treated to a presentation "Luther Had a Wife", a play provided by Laurel Jones.

Session 2

Session 2 was opened with the hymn "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

Pastor Ken Kimball led the Election Team with the distribution of the ballots for Ballot I of the election to cast votes for two members of the Executive Council, and one member of the Court of Adjudication. Ballots were distributed and collected for counting.

Resolution of Lutheran World Federations (LWF) Membership Resolution No. 3: A resolution stating that the North American Lutheran Church apply for full membership in the Lutheran World Federation, accepting its constitution and that NALC congregations be encouraged to endorse this application was read by the Recording Secretary. Reverend David Wendel spoke briefly in support of the resolution. This resolution will allow us to be a part of a group that is global in organization and will also allow us to be in dialog with Lutheran bodies across the world.

- Bishop Emeritus Spring proposed an amendment to the 7th paragraph of the Resolution "... LWF understand them to be in imperfect [change] communion with certain..." (Seconded).

Bishop Kempfski in his role as Convocation Parliamentarian pointed out that the Resolution should be address before any amendments. The discussion centered around whether the LWF constitution and the NALC are compatible at heart. Discussion followed regarding pp. 6 on the resolution "...does not imply altar and pulpit fellowship..."

- Comments for accepting the resolution centered around ideas that, as we would be joining a Federation, not a church: we will not agree with everyone. But that, even in the imperfection of the union the NALC can work to strengthen the ranks of those that are doctrinally aligned with it, and that is what we have been asked to do specifically by African and European Lutheran doctrinally-sound bodies.
- Comments against accepting the resolution congregated around two thoughts: one, that

the delegates felt they didn't have all the information they needed and, two, that they were concerned about the potential closeness with the ELCA.

The voice vote and then a show of hands were not conclusive as the convocation appeared to be evenly divided in opinions. The Bishop called for a standing count by the Election Committee. Following the tabulations of the counts by the Election Committee the results were 241 standing for the resolution/118 standing against for a 67% vote. This vote constituted the necessary 2/3's vote required by the NALC constitution.

The proposed wording change was not revisited by the convocation.

The Resolution Regarding the Application for Full Membership in Lutheran World Federations passed.

Ecumenical Greetings: Ecumenical Greetings were brought by

1. The Reverend Larry Vogel, Associate Executive Director, Commission on Theology and Church Relations, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS).
2. The Reverend Kip Tyler, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

Introduction of the Seminarians: Seminarians present at the Convocation were introduced.

1. Cynthia Bisser
2. Tonya Brittain
3. Raymond Bush
4. Nicole Collins
5. John (J. D.) Cutlip
6. Heidi Holst
7. Marybeth Howe

Report on Lutheran Benefits Plan: Verlin Hahn of the Hahn Group, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, presented an update of the Pastor's Lutheran Benefit Plan. The information was included in the Convocation packets and is attached to the Recording Secretary's Minutes.

The NALC presented Mr. Hahn with a small token of our appreciation for their outstanding work this past year making sure our pastors were covered when the former benefits coverage was withdrawn with little warning.

Recess Prayer was offered by the Nichole Collins and the Hymn "In Christ Alone" was sung.

Friday, August 17, 2012

Session 3

6:00 a.m. *Breakfast Meetings of Deans*
8:30 a.m. *Holy Communion Service*
10:00 a.m. *Brief recess*

Follow-on Remarks to the LWF Vote: Bishop Bradosky began this session by addressing the narrowness of the vote yesterday to apply for full membership in the Lutheran World Federations (LWF). He addressed a concern voiced to him that a third of the delegates felt uncomfortable with the resolution. Bishop Bradosky specifically addressed one statement that “the staff” was driving decisions by reminding the convocation that the staff (Bishop, General Secretary and Executive Council) was merely following through with a motion to work toward full membership made and easily passed during the 2011 Convocation in Columbus, Ohio. In addition, the Bishop reminded the convocation that every congregation in the NALC now has the right and ability to vote for or against the resolution during the next step of the ratification process.

Resolution Presented at the Convocation: A resolution was voiced from the floor that the Joint Commission on Theology and Doctrine draft a document to be due by September 15th to help congregations in the deliberative process by providing them with data giving the reasons and conditions of the membership in the LWF.

Motioned, seconded and approved

Report of Ballot I: Pr. Ken Kimball provided the results of the first ballot. The results were:

- Executive Council
 - Lay Member vote was not final: there will be a runoff
 - Clergy Member Elected was Reverend Victor Langford III.
- Court of Adjudication Member Elected was Richard F. Currey.

The ballot for the second vote for the Lay Member of the Executive Council was distributed and collected for counting.

Ecumenical Greeting: Ecumenical greetings were brought by

1. The Reverend Doctor Robert Bugbee, President, Lutheran Church-Canada
2. The Reverend Timothy J. Swenson, Augsburg Lutheran Churches

Miscellaneous Instructions: Reverend Chavez took a few moments to outline the meeting areas of each Mission District Group and the dining times before the luncheon break and Mission District meetings.

Mission Report: Assistant to the Bishop for Missions, Gemechis Buba presented the 2012 Mission Report. The NALC a mission driven church and mission are given to everyone. Reverend Buba recognized the Mission Congregations represented at the Convocation, and highlighted the work and sacrifice of several of them. He showed a video of last year’s Revitalization Conference and announced the 2012 Revitalization Conferences, scheduled for November 7-10, 2012, at Upper Arlington Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio.

He then asked Reverend David Keener to the podium for comments. Reverend Keeners enthusiastically reported about the 2011 Revitalization Conference.

The remainder of the AB/Missions' address is in the written report included in the convocation literature and his power point presentation attached to the minutes of the Recording Secretary.

- **Announcement of a New Missionary**: The NALC welcomed the service of Rev. Matthew Riak to serve as a missionary to South Sudan (with the support of the World Prayer League). Bishop Bradosky laid hands upon Reverend Riak and the convocation offered prayers for his success and support.
- **DOMA**: Reverend Dr. Buba invited representatives from DOMA to address the convocation. They showed a brief video of the ongoing work in Ethiopia, and provided an update of what had been happening since the making of the video. Bishop Bradosky announced that ½ of the offerings collected in this convocation will be directed toward DOMA.
- **Great Commission Society**: Caroline Nestigen provided an update of the Great Commission Society of the NALC.

Mission District Luncheon Meetings: 12:00 until 2:00 pm.

Session 4

Report of Ballot 2: Pr. Ken Kimball provided the results of the second ballot voting for the 4-year Lay Executive Council position. Jim Hanson (Incumbent) was elected to serve four years. Pr. Kimball took the opportunity to thank his election team.

The Bishop made the announcements of all elections for this year Executive Council, Board of Adjudication and the Elections Committee.

Report of the Treasurer – Ryan Schwarz, 2012 NALC Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report (included in package). All information will be posted on the NALC website, *theNALC.org*. Total cash on-hand on December 31, 2011 for use by the NALC was \$1,494. Project end-of-year balance should be \$48,000. He paused in his presentation for questions from the floor. Receiving none, he continued with the 2013 Budgets (Operations, Theological Education and Fund for the Great Commission).

Mr. Schwarz began by briefly explaining how the budgets were created and the assumptions used to formulate the proposed 2013 budget.

The forecast for 2013 projects a net income of \$1,445,000 and a proposed expense level of \$1,298,778.

2013 Budget Proposal, Resolution no. 5: to adopt the budget(s) as presented. A motion that the budgets (general operating expenses, fund for theological education, and fund for the Great Commission), presented at this Convocation, be adopted as the fiscal plan for the North

American Lutheran Church for the year 2013 was made by the Recording Secretary.

Motioned, seconded and opened for discussion

Suggestion: Referred to the executive Council: can we put in some monies (perhaps in the 2014 budget) to offset some portions of travel to the convocation

Budget was approved by a voice vote: no nay votes.

Introduction of newly Ordained Pastors: Bishop Bradosky called the newly ordained forward for recognition and offered a prayer of thanksgiving for their gifts and their ministry.

- Reverend Charles Beckett, Grace LC, West Carrollton, Ohio
- Reverend Lyle Belleque, Peace LC, Devil's Lake, North Dakota
- Reverend Kris Brower, St. Matthew LC of Sandy Hill, Brenham, Texas
- Reverend Pirjo Carlisle, Reformation LC, Westminster, California
- Reverend Eileen Cheung, Good Shepherd Chinese LC, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- Reverend Patrick Darnell, St. John's LC, Arroyo Grande, California
- Reverend Dale Hamre, St. John LC, Selby, South Dakota
- Reverend Susan Hubbard, Our Savior's LC, Salem, Oregon
- Reverend Marilyn Larsen, Resurrection LC, Corpus Christi, Texas
- Reverend William Means, First LC, Tulare, California
- Reverend Joshua Ong, Church of the Living God, Houston, Texas
- Reverend Carlin Ours, Organ LC, Salisbury, North Carolina
- Reverend Samuel Pawlos, Charlotte Ethiopian Mission, Charlotte, North Carolina
- Reverend Frank Remski, retired
- Reverend Mark Ryman, St. John LC, Asheboro, North Carolina
- Reverend John Scheusner, All Saints LC, Arlington, Texas
- Reverend Michael Sletto, Faith LC, Mentor, Minnesota
- Reverend Thomas Summerfield, Zion LC, Ruthven, Iowa
- Reverend Jill Torgerson, retired

2012 Officer of the Women of the NALC: Bishop Bradosky announced the names and states of the 2012 Board for the Women of the NALC, elected in a separate meeting during the convocation. The 2012 officers are:

- Jeanne Wallace – South Texas
- Lynn Coughenour – North Carolina
- Dorothy Johnson – North Carolina
- Jan Williams – North Carolina
- Sherrie Palan – South Texas
- Karen Hansen – Colorado
- Juhree Polkowski – New York
- Darlene Dec - Indiana

Recognition of Ordinations and Anniversaries: The NALC has decided to recognize anniversaries of ordination for rostered pastors during our annual convocation each year. The decision was to recognize anniversaries in multiples of five, beginning with the 20th year of ordination, and then yearly after 60th years of service. The ordained ministers recognized at this convocation were:

67 Years of Service;

Rev. Albert L. Hock
Rev. Arnold E. Schlueter

60 Years of Service;

Rev. Robert E. Crofton

55 Years of Service;

Rev. William Haggin

50 Years of Service;

Rev. Philip D. Anderson
Rev. Allen E. Hermeier
Rev. Paul V. Martinson
Rev. K. Glen Johnson

45 Years of Service;

Rev. Sanford C. Mitchell
Rev. Richard A. Solberg

40 Years of Service;

Rev. Timothy L. Knauff
Rev. Ronald A. Orovitz

35 Years of Service;

Rev. Bassam Abdaallah
Rev. Gary Coble
Rev. Raymond D. Forsythe
Rev. Darrol W. Heggen
Rev. Stephen Kummernuss
Rev. Victor F. Kolch
Rev. Edward G. Mitchler
Rev. Gene R. Peterson
Rev. Michael Pozzuto
Rev. Warren Reichert
Rev. George L. Rhyne
Rev. Jack L. Richards

30 Years of Service;

Rev. Gary D. Blobaum
Rev. Alan J. Ford
Rev. Scott Jurgens
Rev. Paul A. Gruetter
Rev. Carl M. Haynes
Rev. David L. Hefner
Rev. Kenneth D. Hohag
Rev. Darryl Landsverk
Rev. George Zornow

25 Years of Service;

Rev. Paul F. Breddin
Rev. Mark C, Chavez
Rev. Randall M. Conley
Rev. Tesfaye Dinegdie
Rev. J. George Gilbert
Rev. Rebecca M. M. Heber
Rev. Carl A. Johnson
Rev. Kenneth C, Kimball
Rev. Timothy W. Muehlbrad
Rev. Robert M. Stevens
Rev. Kim E. Thacker

20 Years of Service;

Rev. W. Bennett Harris
Rev. Douglas E. Hefner
Rev. Jay Johnson
Rev. Paul J. Mattson
Rev. Dani Jo Ninke
Rev. Richard R. Vonesh
Rev. Solveig A. H. ZamZow

Mission Minutes: Reverend Buba introduced and highlighted the ministries of our three 2011 missionaries.

- Reverend Jim Nestigen– Ethiopia. The Nestigens were at the Convocation and gave us several stories of their year in Ethiopia.
- Reverend Scott Ryll – Hungry. Pastor Ryll sent a small video highlighting his work and the people he serves.
- Reverend Didi Ponzo – Ecuador. Pastor Ponzo also sent video greetings to the convocation. His video highlighted his ministry in Ecuador.

Unfinished Business: The only item of unfinished business was the full communion agreement



with Uganda which had been brought before the 2011 Convocation. During the year between the convocations it was referred to the Executive Council. Based on the data presented to it, the Executive Council recommended that it is inappropriate to carry this agreement to completion as they were not able to satisfy themselves that the relationship would be beneficial for the NALC.

Motion to accept the Executive Council's recommendation, seconded and approved.

2013 Convocation Site: Pastor Mark Chavez announced that the NALC leadership and the CORE leadership have decided upon Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, as the site of the 2013 Convocation, to be held August 5-9, 2013.

Installation of the Officers: At the closing Service of Holy Communion Bishop John Bradosky installed all members of the Executive Council and the Court of Adjudication.

Respectfully Submitted for Review and Approval,

Carol H. Lattier
2012 Recording Secretary