



Minutes of the 2013 NALC Convocation
"Come to the Water of Life!"
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
August 8-9, 2013

The 2013 convocation was preceded with worship which began at 10:45. The service bulletin for all worship services is attached to the Recording Secretary's minutes.

Thursday, August 8, 2013
Session 1

Call to Order: Bishop John Bradosky, Bishop of the NALC, called the meeting to order and welcomed the members and guests to the Convocation at 9:38 a.m.

Adoption of rules of procedure, resolution no. 1: A request that the rules of procedure distributed at this Convocation be adopted as the rules of procedure for the 2013 Convocation was made by the Recording Secretary.

Motioned, seconded and approved

Adoption of agenda, resolution no. 2:

A request that the agenda proposed for this Convocation be adopted as the agenda for the 2013 Convocation made by the Recording Secretary

Motioned, seconded and approved

Bishop Bradosky introduced the Westmont college choir and director. The convocation expressed its gratitude for the beauty and willingness of the choir and director to lend their talents to this convocation

Convocation Chairs: The Convocation Chairs for the 2013 Convocation were recognized. The chairpersons for this Convocation are:

- Nomination committee - The Reverend David Baer
- Election Chair – The Reverend Ken Kimball
- Parliamentarian – The Reverend Eric Ash
- Facilities – Anne Gleason
- Worship – The Reverend Maurice Frontz
- Reference and Counsel – The Reverend Mark Chavez

Recognition of Leaving Members:

- The leaving members of the 2013 Executive Council were recognized and thanked for their service. The members were the Reverend N. Amanda Grimmer, Clergy member, and Mrs. Carol H. Lattier, Lay member.
- Rachael Sosebee, Secretary to the Missions Director, was recognized and thanked for her service in the Columbus office to the NALC since the inception of the church.

Presentation of the Executive Council and Court of Adjudication Candidates: The Reverend David Baer presented the slate of candidates for the elected positions open during this

convocation. The nominating Committee this year consisted of the Reverend David Baer, the Reverend Chris Nevis, the Reverend Michael Tamorria, Mr. Richard Jansak and Mr. Richard Stevens. Reverend Baer introduced the nominees and asked them to stand.

Nominated for the 4-Year Lay Position on the Executive Council were:

- Matthew Burkhardt, Columbus, Ohio;
- Richard Jansak, Hendersonville, North Carolina;
- Paul O’Malley, Auburn, Indiana;
- Frank Polkowski, East Amherst, New York.

Nominated for the 4-Year Clergy position on the Executive Council were:

- The Reverend Bassam Abdallah, Hammond, Indiana;
- The Reverend Cathi Braasch, Elwood, Nebraska;
- The Reverend Phillip Gagnon, St. Albert, Alberta, Canada;
- The Reverend John Hopper, Hot Springs, South Dakota;
- The Reverend Eddy Perez, Miami, Florida;
- The Reverend Royan Rodney, Middleburgh, New York;
- The Reverend Dr. Amy Schifrin, Elkader, Iowa;
- The Reverend Donna Smith, Champaign, Illinois;
- The Reverend Solveig Zamzow, Grafton, Iowa.

Mr. Jon Evans of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and The Reverend Jeffray Greene of Rantoul, Illinois, have been nominated for reelection to the NALC Court of Adjudication.

Bishop Bradosky reminded the convocation that additional nominees cannot be submitted from the floor for Executive Council, but that can be nominated for the Court of Adjudication. There were no additional nominees for the Court of Adjudication. There was a motion that the nominations be closed.

Motioned, seconded and approved that nominations be closed.

Introductions and Greetings of the Ecumenical Guests:

The Reverend David Wendel, Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry and Ecumenism, introduced the 2013 Ecumenical Guests:

- The Reverend Dr. Wakseyoum Idosa, President, Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus.
- Father Don Rooney, President of Roman Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers, and the Reverend of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia.
- Rick Caporali, Father Rooney’s Executive Assistant
- Ambassador Richard Mariki, General Secretary of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT); Eastern and Coastal Diocese (ECD)

- Bishop Israel-Peter Mwakyolile, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), Konde Diocese.
- The Reverend Canon Daryl Fenton, Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), National Director, CMJ-USA, the Church’s ministry among Jewish People.
- The Reverend Nolan D. Astley, First vice President of the Lutheran Church-Canada..
- The Reverend Larry Vogel, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), Associate Executive Director, Commission on Theology & Church Relations
- Joel Lehenbauer, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS)
- The Reverend Tim Swenson, Chairman of the ALC Ministry Committee, Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC). In addition, The Reverend Swenson is also Director of Student Services & Admissions at Institute of Lutheran Theology.
- The Reverend Dr. Marcus Kunz, Assistant to the Bishop / Executive for Theological Discernment, Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America (ELCA).
- The The Reverend Dr. John Nunes, Lutheran World Relief (LWR)
- Kevin Herr, Church Engagement Coordinator, Water Missions International (WMI).
- The Reverend Herb Hafferman and wife, Kerstyn. Reverend Hafferman will be the guest of honor later during the convocation.

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

- The Reverend Dr. Wakseyoum Idosa, President, Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. Bishop Bradosky introduced Reverend Idosa and enumerated his credentials and the many ways in which the NALC and the EECMY are aligned. Reverend Idosa commented on the ways we need to continue to connect in order to uphold one another in the spreading of the message of Jesus Christ.
- Father Don Rooney, President of Roman Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers, and the Reverend of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Bishop Bradosky introduced Father Rooney and gave a brief biography of his accomplishments and ...brought greetings from Cardinal Dolan and a written message from Bishop Madden. [copy included in official minutes]

Introduction of Ministry Partners: The Reverend 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. The ministries introduced were:

- DOMA International
- China Service Ventures (The Reverend Paul and Ida Martensen)
- East European Missions Network (The Reverend Bill Moberly, Executive Director)
- Friends of Madagascar (The Reverend David Leurcef)
- Lutheran CORE (The Reverend Steve Shipman)
- Sola Publishing (The Reverend Steve King)
- World Mission Prayer League (Jay Gillard)

- Youth Encounter (The Reverend Larry Thompson, Executive Director)

In addition, The Reverend Chavez invited LSS Disaster Services, Mary Woodward, representative, to come forward and receive our thanks.

Report of the Bishop: A copy of the Bishop’s full speech is attached to the Recording Secretary’s minutes. Bishop Bradosky began by expressing his sincere appreciation to his predecessor, Bishop Emeritus Paull Spring for his constant and unstinting support.

Some excerpts from the Bishop speech: Relentless Discipleship; “we must confess that directly or indirectly we contributed to the direction of our previous church. The deviation all began with changes of a small degree, and the further down the road, the larger the delta. Staying on course is not easy. Many factors can contribute to the deviations. The most common factor is neglect: but all of them are based on how high we each value our discipleship to Jesus Christ. The concerns and deviations had nothing to do with the documents of any previous church, but rather with their behaviors. The great disparity is the distinction between what we say we believe and how we live. To avoid the great disparity we must clarify our values and live by them. The most powerful tool we will have is the pursuit of discipleship. Following Jesus as disciples always involves looking closely at the disparity in our own lives as well as in others. The critical point is always our behaviors: how we live what we say we believe. Nothing will change until we each individually change. By pursuing discipleship we will grow more deeply into our relationship with Jesus, more closely aligned with our friends and fellow workers, and more deeply involved in our church. Our response to God needs to be Mary’s response to the angel, ‘let it be with me according to God’s will.’ Thank you for this partnership in this ministry that we share.”

Introduction of the staff and Deans of the Mission Districts: Bishop Bradosky introduced the staff. The 2013 staff of the NALC include The Reverend Mark Chavez, General Secretary; the Reverend Dr. Gemechis Buba, Assistant to the Bishop for Missions; The Reverend David Wendel, Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenism and Ministry; Rebecca Seifert, Secretary to the Bishop; Anne Gleason, Financial Administrator; Rachael Sosebee, Executive Assistant; and Kathleen Jacobsen, Administrative Assistant.

Bishop Bradosky introduced the 2013 Executive Council. Lay members of the EC are Jim Hansen, Carol Lattier, Ryan Schwarz, and Kay Weaver. Ordained members of the Council are The Reverend N. Amanda Grimmer, The Reverend Rebecca Heber, The Reverend Victor Langford III, and The Reverend James Lehmann.

Bishop Bradosky thanked the Deans of each mission district:

- Atlantic MD – The Reverend Mike Tavella (Abington, Pennsylvania)
- Caribbean and Hispanic Mission District – The Reverend Eddy F. Perez (Miami, Florida)
- Carolinas MD – The Reverend Carl Haynes (Salisbury, North Carolina)

- Central Pacific MD – The Reverend Daniel Selbo (San Jose, California)
- Eastern South Dakota MD – The Reverend Randy Eisenbeisz (Hayti, South Dakota)
- Great Plains MD – The Reverend Russ Saltzman (Kansas City, Missouri)
- Great Rivers MD – The Reverend James Lehmann (Thomasboro, Illinois)
- Heartland MD – The Reverend Larry Gember (Greenfield, Indiana)
- Iowa MD – The Reverend Ken Kimball (Waterville, Iowa)
- Michigan MD – The Reverend Tim Loehrke (Pigeon, Michigan)
- Mid-Northeast MD – The Reverend Eric Reisen (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)
- Mid-South MD – The Reverend William (Bill) White (Memphis, Tennessee)
- Minkota MD – The Reverend Tim Lundeen (Erskine, Minnesota)
- North Texas MD – The Reverend Mark Braaten (Tyler, Texas)
- Northwest MD – The Reverend Jack Richards (Everett, Washington)
- Ohio MD – The Reverend Dan Powell (Springfield, Ohio)
- Rocky Mountain MD – The Reverend Ken Hohag
- Sonshine MD – The Reverend Christopher Byars (Dade City, Florida)
- South Texas MD – The Reverend David Priem (Fredericksburg, Texas)
- Southwest Pacific MD – The Reverend Marvin Combs (Huntington Beach, California)
- Virginia MD – The Reverend Bradley Hales (Culpepper, Virginia)
- Western Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming MD – The Reverend David Baer (Whitewood, South Dakota)
- Wisconsin and Upper Michigan MD – The Reverend Roy Harrisville III (Menomonie, Wisconsin)
- Canadian MD – The Reverend Philip Gagnon
- Pacific Northwest MD – The Reverend Jack Richards (Everette, Washington)

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

Report of Ratification of Application for LWF membership: The Reverend David Wendel presented the status of the application for Lutheran World Federation (LWF) membership.

“The 2012 Convocation of the North American Lutheran Church approved a resolution seeking full membership in the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) by a two-thirds majority. The NALC Constitution requires such a decision to be ratified by NALC congregations. As of the Feb. 17, 2013, voting deadline, 167 congregations had voted to ratify the Convocation’s action, while 61 congregations had voted not to ratify the decision. The LWF resolution was supported by 73% of the 228 congregations that voted, exceeding the constitutionally required two-thirds majority of the congregations voting for ratification ...The updated NALC application for full membership and letter certifying positive completion of our ratification process was sent to the appropriate LWF officials on March 13, 2013. These materials were received and presented to the LWF membership committee and were reviewed by the committee and LWF Council during their annual meeting in June, 2013. Clarification of several issues has been requested, and an appropriate response is being prepared.



Minutes of the 2013 NALC Convocation
"Come to the Water of Life!"
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
August 8-9, 2013

The next step will be an on-site visit by an LWF representative for the purpose of developing a personal relationship and a deeper understanding of the life and work of the NALC. At this time, we do not expect action before the next meeting of the LWF Council in June, 2014. This is the normal process of membership application, so we will continue to work through this process in accordance with the LWF resolution adopted by the NALC convocation and ratified by congregational action."

Greetings from The Reverend Dr. John Nunes, President of the Lutheran World Relief: Bishop Bradosky spent a few minutes discussing the Reverend Dr. Nunes many professional and personal qualifications that led to his position as President/LWR. Reverend Dr. Nunes "God does not need our good works, but our fellow citizen's do." The LWR is gaining ground with the Lutheran Malaria Initiative and Reverend Nunes thanked the NALC for its part in this growing victory. LWR continues to thank all of the quilters across the Lutheran world. This year their goal is 500,000 quilts. Thanks to everyone for joining in the mission of helping the least of God's kingdom.

A break was called at 11:05 a.m. The Bishop called us back into session at 11:25 a.m.

Bible Study, "Jesus Gives Us Living Water to Share": Our Bible Study Leader was The Reverend Herb Heffernan. Bishop Bradosky introduced The Reverend Heffernan and outlined his many gifts and the blessings that he has brought to his church in his 50 years of missionary service.

The Reverend Heffernan talked of some of his experiences and expanded on our John 7: 37-39 daily scripture. The Reverend Heffernan was a blessing to all who heard him. The Reverend Heffernan offered a prayer for all of us in the Convocation.

Introduction of the Seminarians: Seminarians present at the Convocation were introduced. The 2013 Seminarians are:

- Cynthia Bisser
- Tonya Brittain
- Nicole Collins
- Ronald Hamm
- Heidi Holst
- Marybeth Howe
- Cassandra Light
- Paulette McHugh
- Joshua Morgan
- Dawn Rister
- Elizabeth SanFilippo
- Glenn Sokolowski
- Hans Tolpingrud



Minutes of the 2013 NALC Convocation
"Come to the Water of Life!"
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
August 8-9, 2013

- Christopher Wendel

We closed Session 1 with a Prayer and Hymn. The Bishop dismissed the members of the Convocation to enjoy lunch with the other members of their Mission Districts.

Thursday, August 8, 2013
Session 2

We began Session 2 with a choral presentation at 1:45 p.m. A brief service included a hymn, reading and responses.

Call to Order: Bishop John Bradosky, Bishop of the NALC, called the meeting back to order at 1:55 p.m.

Ballot I: The Reverend Ken Kimball explained the balloting procedures for this election. The ballots were dispersed and collected.

- Bishop Bradosky presented the slate of candidates for the 2014 nominating committee. A motion was made that the nominations be closed.
Motioned, seconded and approved that nominations be closed.
- Bishop Bradosky presented the nominees for the court of adjudication. The two candidates ran unopposed and were elected by voice vote.

Presentation on Tanzanian Ministry by The Reverend Herb Hafermann: The Reverend Hafermann gave some reminiscences of his years of service as a missionary in Tanzania.

Report of the Treasurer – Ryan Schwarz, 2013 NALC Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report (included in Recording Secretary's minutes). All information will be posted on the NALC website, *theNALC.org*. Once again donations exceeded expenses in the second quarter of this year, albeit by a small margin. We're on-pace to exceed budget for the full year in both donations and expenses, and end the year with an operating surplus. The projected end-of-year balance for 2013 should be approximately \$140K.

Key points Mr. Schwarz made were:

- Donations modestly exceeded expenses in the second quarter of 2013.
- Benevolence on pace to exceed budget even without end-of-year giving peak.
- Expenses also on pace to exceed budget, due largely to staff travel.

Trends he highlighted were:

- Growth in congregational benevolence is slowing noticeably, consistent with slowing growth of the NALC
- Major increases in spending (e.g. seminary system) unlikely to be covered by

congregational giving without increased emphasis on benevolence, plus focused effort to attract donations from individuals

- Possible that congregational benevolence will grow if the economy improves.

Mr. Schwarz continued with the 2014 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 2014 budget.

2014 Budget Proposal, Resolution no. 3: The Recording Secretary requested 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 2014.

Motioned, seconded and approved

A break was called at 3:10 p.m. The meeting was called back to order by Bishop Bradosky at 3:20 p.m.

Ecumenical Greetings/ACNA – Ecumenical Greeting to the NALC and its Convocation were given by the Reverend Canon Daryl Fenton, Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), National Director, CMJ-USA, the Anglican Church’s ministry among Jewish People. Bishop Bradosky provided the introduction highlighting Canon Fenton’s career and abilities. Canon Fenton discussed the reasons why we are such dear brother/sister organizations in the service of Christ: the similarities of our beliefs, the similarities of our passages to becoming a church, and our mutual dedication to the mission of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Ecumenical Greetings/ELCT - Bishop Bradosky introduced Bishop Israel-Peter Mwakyolile, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), Konde Diocese, highlighting his many accomplishments. Bishop Mwakyolile brought greetings from Bishop Malasusa to the NALC and an earnest hope for church unity between our organizations so that the work of Jesus Christ will bloom and prosper in the world. “May we all be true members of the one true church so that we may have a living testimony”- Bishop Malasusa. Bishop Mwakyolile stressed that the ELCT looks forward to uniting with the NALC in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Memorandum of Understanding NALC/ELCT: The Reverend Wendel followed Bishop Mwakyolile with a brief overview of the status of the Memorandum of Understanding with the ELCT. The MOU is a guideline in exploring the relationship between the two churches with the ultimate goal of eventually being able to work together more closely. The duration of the MOU will be two years with the goal of working toward full communion upon the close of the MOU. The MOU may be extended at either party’s discretion. The entire document will be posted on the NALC website.

Following The Reverend Wendel’s description, the Memorandum of Agreement was signed by

Bishop John Bradosky for the NALC and Bishop Israel-Peter Mwakyolile for the ELCT.

Proposal from Theological Education Task Force, Resolutions no. 4 and no. 5: The Reverend Roy Harrisville III, chairman of the Task Force for Theological Education, presented the recommendation of the task force following a two-year study of the projected needs for clergy education in the NALC. The task force proposes the establishment of a Seminary of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) and proposes calling a director to draft a plan for establishing a Seminary Center and Houses of Studies. The Seminary Center and Houses of Studies will together comprise the North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS). The NALS will have one faculty body, comprised of NALC faculty at the Seminary Center and at the Houses of Studies.

The Recording Secretary presented a resolution that the Executive Council recommends that the 2013 Convocation of the North American Lutheran Church approve the establishment of the North American Lutheran Seminary as outlined in the NALS Proposal, comprised of a Seminary Center at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, and the Houses of Studies.

Motioned, seconded.

The floor was opened for discussion and Bishop Bradosky and The Reverend Harrisville welcomed those speaking in favor of the motion, and those speaking against the motion. Following discussions and responses for 20 minutes, the question was called. However, the vote was too close to close the debate (2/3 of the membership present must approve the close of debate). The speaking in favor of, and the speaking in opposition to the motion continued. Following additional questions and answers, the question was called for a second time. The motion was passed by voice vote to stop the debate.

The motion has been made to approve the NALS. The voice vote in approval was overwhelming. Motioned, seconded, approved.

The Recording Secretary presented a resolution for consideration at this convocation: Be it resolved: That the 2013 Convocation authorize the raising of \$1,000,000 for the establishment of the North American Lutheran Seminary, to be expended pursuant to budgets approved by the Executive Council as funds are available.

Motioned, seconded.

The floor was opened for discussion. Bishop Bradosky and Treasurer, Ryan Schwarz answered questions.

The Reverend Carl Haynes, Dean of the Carolinas Mission District, took the opportunity to announce that the Carolinas MD had already raised \$150,000 in support of the NALS. His announcement was greeted with applause. Following The Reverend Haynes announcement the question and answer session continued.

The question was called. The debate was ended unanimously.

Vote on the resolution.

Motioned, seconded and approved

Point of order: A motion was made that the Agenda be extended to (1) hear the result of the first ballot and (2) allow Bishop Spring to extend his resolution [previously mention in the Convocation].

Invitation to Discussion: Bishop Spring moved that the NALC invite the board of Institute for Lutheran Theology (ILT), St. Paul Seminary, and the boards of other independent Lutheran theological schools to enter into conversation with the theological education task force of the NALC, and explore ways by which they may participate in the theological education ministry of the NALC. Bishop Spring’s original proposal is attached to the Recording Secretary’s minutes. *Motioned, seconded* . The Bishop asked for discussion. There was no other discussion, so the vote was called.

Motioned, seconded and approved

Results of Ballot 1:

- Executive Council/Lay position: The first ballot yielded no clear winner. Mr. Burkhart had 140 votes, Mr. Janzek 118, Mr. Polkowski 92, and Mr. O’Malley 61. Our current rules say the highest four candidates will go to ballot 2. As this rule would not be helpful in deciding a winning candidate, the motion was made that we amend the rules of procedure [for this Convocation only] to allow the top two candidates to appear on the next ballot.

Motioned, seconded and approved

Given that, the ballot will include only Mr. Burkhart and Mr. Janzek.

- Executive Council/Clergy position: 411 ballots: The top candidates were The Reverend Dr. Schifrin 101, The Reverend Perez 90, The Reverend Gagnon 75, and The Reverend Abdulla 42.

The second ballots were distributed to delegates and collected for counting. The ballots contained two candidates for the lay position and four candidates for the clergy position of the Executive Council.

Following a hymn and a prayer, Bishop Bradosky dismissed the second session of the 2013 Convocation at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, August 9, 2013 Session 3

The third session of the 2013 Convocation began with worship, beginning at 8:40 a.m.

Bishop Bradosky opened the working portion of the convocation at 9:25 a.m. with allowing the body of the Convocation to stand in recognition of Mrs. Haffermann for her great contributions

to the work of Jesus Christ and her continued support of her husband, The Reverend Herb Haffermann.

Introduction of newly Ordained The Reverends: Bishop Bradosky called the newly ordained forward for recognition and offered a prayer of thanksgiving for their gifts and their ministry. The Reverends recognized this year are:

- The Reverend P. Garrett Siemsen La Casa de Cristo
- The Reverend Challa G. Baro Ebenezer Oromo Evangelical Church
- The Reverend Fikru A. Eticha Ebenezer Oromo Evangelical Church
- The Reverend Dr. Patricia L. Abel Waiting for a call
- The Reverend Dr. Daniel J. Grimminger Faith Lutheran Church (interim)
- The Reverend Kamiso A. Boru Oromo Evangelical Christian Fellowship
- The Reverend Gudeta Gunja Burka Oromo Evangelical Church of Denver
- The Reverend Salome B. Pathak Christ is Lord Ministries
- The Reverend Divaker Pathak Christ is Lord Ministries
- The Reverend Dr. Riccardo A. Capezza Hospice Chaplain-Heart and Home Hospice and Palliative Care
- The Reverend Sandra L. Towberman Springdale Lutheran Church
- The Reverend Carl A. Hendrickson Springdale Lutheran Church
- The Reverend Dennis Di Mauro Trinity Lutheran Church

Greeting from Dr. Justyn Terry, Dean and President, Trinity School for Ministry: Bishop Bradosky introduced the Very Reverend Dr. Justyn Terry, Dean and President of Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, Pennsylvania. Dr. Terry welcomed us very warmly to Pittsburgh and expressed his delight in our plans to work and study at Trinity School for Ministry.

Water Mission Presentation : Kevin Kerr is the Church Engagement Coordinator for Water Missions Project. Bishop Bradosky introduced Mr. Kerr, stressing that his passion is to use safe water as a vehicle for the church to share the love of Jesus Christ. Mr. Kerr hosted a short video that highlighted the work and plans for Water Missions International, a Christian organization dedicated to providing safe water to those in need.

Report on Lutheran Benefits Plan: Bishop Bradosky introduced Mr. Verlyn Hahn to the Convocation. Mr. Hahn’s company provides the leadership for the health benefits for the clergy and staff of the NALC. The details that Mr. Hahn provided to the Convocation are contained in a document attached to the Recording Secretary’s notes.

Resolution Postponement: The Reverend Chavez requested a motion to postpone the introduction of a resolution from Culpepper, Virginia.

Motioned, seconded and approved

Report of Second Ballot: The Reverend Ken Kimball provided the results of the second ballot

- Executive Council/Lay position: 403 ballots cast: Mr. Burkhart was elected with 243 ballots.
- Executive Council/Clergy position: 375 ballots were cast; The Reverend Dr. Schifrin 153, The Reverend Perez 109, The Reverend Gagnon 81, The Reverend Abdulla 33. We will proceed to a third ballot to resolve the runoff between The Reverend Dr. Schifrin and The Reverend Perez.

The Reverend Kimball had the ballots for clergy run-off ready. They were passed to delegates and retrieved for counting.

Ecumenical Greetings – Ecumenical Greeting to the NALC and its convocation were given by The Reverend Nolan D. Astley, First vice President of the Lutheran Church-Canada. Bishop Bradosky greeted The Reverend Astley to the Convocation. His warm wit delighted the entire Convocation. More seriously, he brought greetings from President Robert Bugby, President of the Lutheran Church-Canada to the Convocation. In the letter, President Bugby gave thanks for the profound level of consensus in our church’s biblical understanding and agreements, and thanks that our differences are respectfully heard on all sides. A copy of President Bugby’s letter is included with the Recording Secretary’s minutes.

Ecumenical Greetings – Ecumenical Greeting to the NALC and its Convocation were given by the Reverend Dr. Joel Lehenbauer, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). Bishop Bradosky introduced The Reverend Dr. Lehenbauer to the Convocation. Dr. Lehenbauer expressed his delight in being with us and compliments both the Convocation and the Theological Conference which preceded it. He gave us an update on the LCMS and reiterated the wonderful fact that both organizations need each other in our troubled world. Dr. Lehenbauer expressed his deep appreciation of the continued meetings between the NALC, the LC-C, and the LCMS. It is his belief that we are building a unity within Lutheranism that will change the world.

Missions Report, The Reverend Dr. Gemechis Buba: A copy of The Reverend Dr. Buba’s presentation is included in the Recording Secretary’s minutes.

- New Mission Congregations: 15% of the congregations in the NALC are mission congregations. Most of them are self-supporting. Their energy and vitality are great joys in the church.
 - Starting multiple mission posts and house churches. These will be born from mission congregations.
 - Our first mission festival will November 7-9, 2013 in Columbus, Ohio: The

Reverend Buba introduced The Reverend David Keener to describe the planned festival. The festival will be targeted to help equip the workers to know how to disciple the unchurched.

- Renewal of our congregations: we will be offering various workshops and training during the year to renew those.
 - The Reverends Mark Braaten and Paul Borg discussed local and regional discipleship events. Eleven events have occurred so far this year. They have all been pan-Lutheran events, including members and speakers from both Lutheran CORE and from the NALC, and all with a focus on discipleship. They have used a variety of speakers (Bishop Bradosky, Dr. Buba, The Reverend Michael Foss, etc.). The meetings have ranged in size from 30 up to 200. The meetings all have two focuses: get discipleship principles into various churches and also to create a network of disciples. Please watch for these events throughout the year.
 - Warren Royters, Grace Lutheran Church, Eton, Ohio gave a testimony on the effects of renewal in his congregation and in his life.
- International Missions: We have missionaries in Ecuador, South Sudan, Hungary, India, Madagascar, and China. Through China Service Venture we will have a permanent presence in China each year. The first year’s missionaries to China will be the Reverend Jim and Carolyn Nestigen for 2014 and 2015. Reverend Nestigen will teach the Small Catechism as a document for mission.
- Global Mission Projects: There is a special medical mission being organization for Ethiopia. DOMA is doing mission work in Africa and in Russian.
 - DOMA: Dan Clark spoke for the group of missionaries who visited the convocation on behalf of a new medical mission in Ethiopia. The group presented a short video on the work of DOMA at Hidota Health in Ethiopia.
 - Our focus in Africa is growing deeply, and now internationally we are consciously focusing on Asia, with goals of working within China, India, Bangladesh and Viet Nam.
- Dr. Buba invited The Reverend Eddy Perez and The Reverend Joshua Ong to join him onstage. The Reverend Perez serves as the Hispanic coordinator for the NALC and the Reverend Ong serves as the Asian coordinator.
- Carolyn Nestigen presented a report on the Great Commission Society.

Resolution No. 7: The Reverend Chavez presented a resolution from Reformation Lutheran Church, Culpeper, Virginia. A copy of the original resolution is attached to the minutes of the Recording Secretary. *Motioned and seconded.* The Reverend Bradosky invited discussion.

- Amendment 1: proposed an amendment to the resolution. Remove the “...4 million members of our former church bodies...” in the goal of not pointing fingers at other organizations, instead simply providing a challenge and goal to our own church.

m/s/approved to remove the line.



- Amendment 2: proposed a second amendment to the resolution. Remove the banner phrase quotation "1511 by 2017: Each one—Reach one" under copyright infringement possibilities.

m/s/approved to remove the banner quotation

As amended, the resolution calls for planned growth to "at least 1517 congregations by 2017", and for an international day of prayer on Labor Day, September 2, 2013.

The question was called and seconded, approved unanimously.

Motion on the resolution:

m/s/approved – the resolution was adopted.

Recognition of Military Endorser, Chaplains and All Military Families: The Reverend Lenae Rasmussen (El Paso TX) provided a report on her efforts in the area of military endorsement. The Reverend Rasmussen is the NALC endorsement agents. The NALC currently has 9 chaplains under endorsement.

Convocation Extension: Bishop Bradosky asked for a motion to extend the Convocation as we were past our closing time. A motion was made to extend the 2013 Convocation until 12:30 p.m.

m/s/approved

Navigators and Discipleship: The Reverend Chavez introduced Sam and Shirley Hershey, Margaret Fitzwater, and Dennis Blevins of the Navigators. The NALC will be the first time the Navigators will work with an entire denomination. We are beginning the pilot phase of the program, which will begin in four areas: Ohio, Illinois & Eastern Pennsylvania, Texas, and Iowa. A copy of The Reverend Chavez's introduction is attached to the official Recording Secretary's minutes. Each of the Navigator representatives was enthusiastic about the prospect of working with the NALC and gave an overview of what their work will be.

Recognition of Ordinations and Anniversaries: The NALC recognizes any anniversaries of ordination for rostered clergy during our annual convocation each year. The anniversaries honored are those greater than twenty years ordination and in a multiple of five. The ordained ministers recognized at this convocation were:

60 Years of Service:

The Reverend Henry S. G. Sheppard
The Reverend Robert Pflueger

55 Years of Service:

The Reverend Paul G. Senff
The Reverend Eugene A. Lehrke

50 Years of Service:

The Reverend Ronald L. Deck
The Reverend Ralph A. Kempfski
The Reverend M. L. Jacobson
The Reverend William H. Breen

45 Years of Service:

The Reverend Robert D. Kitchen



Minutes of the 2013 NALC Convocation
"Come to the Water of Life!"
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
August 8-9, 2013

The Reverend John P. Lingle
The Reverend Richard G. Mahan
The Reverend Hans Scherner
The Reverend John E. Jackson

40 Years of Service:

The Reverend Richard V. Pearson
The Reverend Thomas W. Corbell
The Reverend Ralph W. Easterhaus
The Reverend Donald R. Bachman, Jr.
The Reverend Ivan P. Nordstrand, Jr.
The Reverend John D. Hopper

35 Years of Service:

The Reverend Robert Palan
The Reverend Timothy L. Anderson
The Reverend Timothy E. Johnson
The Reverend Donald R. Allman
The Reverend John F. Bradosky
The Reverend Ronald R. Walter
The Reverend M. Henry Pawluk
The Reverend Thomas E. Reiff
The Reverend Clyde Elliot

30 Years of Service:

The Reverend Frederick W. Meuter III
The Reverend Dr. Robert W. Carlson, Jr.

The Reverend Timothy A. Deussenberg
The Reverend Melvin G. Harris
The Reverend Mark C. Dill
The Reverend Donna Hacker Smith
The Reverend Barry S. Kendall
The Reverend Kebede Dibaba
The Reverend David L. Steffenson
The Reverend Stephen E. Seibel
The Reverend Gerald M. Merkouris

25 Years of Service:

The Reverend Jimalee Jones
The Reverend Timothy Nappa
The Reverend Dr. Lauren R. Ley
The Reverend Frezil Westerlund
The Reverend Tamara J. K. Keen
The Reverend Robert Vitek
The Reverend David Priem
The Reverend Joel J. Berthelsen

20 Years of Service:

The Reverend H. Ray Ramsburg
The Reverend Aaron D. Albrecht
The Reverend Dennis Reich
The Reverend Karl Johnsen
The Reverend Seth J. Jersild

Results of the Third Ballot: The Reverend Ken Kimball provided the results of the third ballot for Executive Council/Clergy position. The Reverend Dr. Amy A. Schifrin was elected.

Unfinished Business: A question was raised whether or not the NALC would like to add an additional position to the Executive Council designated as an exclusively Canadian seat with the goal of adequately representing the Canadian Contingent of the NALC. The Bishop's response was that we don't see the need to divide the NALC geographically in any way other than to provide a Dean as a shepherd over different geographic areas. We are one church, in unity, and equal members.

2014 Convocation Site: The Reverend Mark Chavez announced that the NALC leadership and the CORE leadership have decided upon The Chapel of The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina, as the site of the 2014 Convocation, to be held July 24-25, 2014.



Minutes of the 2013 NALC Convocation
"Come to the Water of Life!"
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
August 8-9, 2013

2014 Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee for the 2014 Convocation will be:

- Mr. Harvey Hengst
- The Reverend Theresa Jacobson
- The Reverend Russell Saltzman
- The Reverend Hilbert Schultz
- The Reverend Mike Tamorria

Bishop John Bradosky declared the 2013 Convocation closed at 12:35 p.m. He invited all in attendance to remain for a Worship service at which all those who are elected to positions of leadership within the NALC would be installed.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol H. Lattier
2013 Recording Secretary