

The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod
California - Nevada - Hawaii
70th District Convention

First Session
Friday April 17th, 2015

1. Opening

The 70th convention of the CNH District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod was opened by the President, Rev. Dr. Robert Newton at 1:15 p.m. In his opening comments he noted that the timing of the convention may be difficult for some in that it is so close to Easter. The upside is that we are able to gather in the afterglow of the resurrection.

The President noted that the theme of the convention is "Run the Race - Eyes Fixed on Jesus". He went on to say that the world of the disciples was much like the world the church lives in and the Lord is doing the same work in the world today as he did then.

It was announced that Synod President Matthew Harrison's flight has been delayed in Denver due to weather. President Newton offered a prayer for his safe travel. Synod Vice President Scott Murray was introduced to the convention. He will be providing the message for this evening's worship service in place of President Harrison.

President Newton made several introductions including his wife, Priscilla, and Past President, Walt Tietjen, He gave special recognition to the District Board of Directors and acknowledged the excellent work of 1st Vice-President Paul Hoffmann. The president also offered special recognition for Pedar Wold who served on the Board for this past triennium and was called to glory in 2014.

The president noted that this year's convention would be different than past conventions in that there will be more time spent with teaching, learning, prayer and worship rather than convention business. With that thought in mind, Rev. Ted Hartman talked of the use of prayer during the sessions. Prayer will accompany all convention actions and there will be Pray'er people that will be identified by their name badge who will be available throughout the convention to pray with delegates. Rev. Hartman closed with prayer.

2. Opening Devotion

1st Vice-President Paul Hoffmann offered the opening devotion beginning with the Apostles' Creed. We are here to focus on Jesus. What does His death and resurrection mean concerning "*Where we are and where we are going*". St. Paul said that we are "*Citizens of heaven*". Until Jesus died and rose from the dead, people really didn't know where they were going. Now they do. As Jesus said, "*Because I live, so you also shall live.*" The devotion was closed with the singing of "*I Know that my Redeemer Lives*" followed by a closing prayer.

3. Convention Business

President Newton thanked the district staff and all who made the convention possible. He gave special recognition to Rita Konda for her invaluable work in keeping things on track.

The president offered recognition to two new congregations and welcomed them into the District and Synod; Faith Lutheran - So. San Francisco and Zion Lutheran - Lodi. The pastors and representatives from those congregation were introduced and invited to sign the constitution.

President Newton announced that Addis Kidan, an Eritrean/Ethiopian congregation working with Pastor Tesfai is currently worshipping and will be ready to be welcomed into membership soon. President Newton offered prayer for these congregations and their leaders.

Pastors who are new to the District since the last convention were recognized with their names and congregation being read. This information is listed in the Convention Manual.

4. Report on Registration

Registration Committee Chair, Rev. James Kabel noted that a quorum had been reached and offered the following report at 1:37 p.m.:

Voting Lay Delegates = 98

Voting Pastoral Delegates = 93

Total Voting Delegates = 191

Total Non-voting Delegates = 111

Total Registered = 302

Rev. Kabel offered a second report to the convention at 4:20 p.m. with the following information:

Voting Lay Delegates = 106

Voting Pastoral Delegates = 99

Total Voting Delegates = 205

Total Non-voting Delegates = 120

Total Registered = 325

Motion was made, seconded and approved by acclamation to accept each individual report.

5. Adoption of Standing Rules and Convention Agenda

Convention Parliamentarian, Rev. Richard Rice read the standing rules as printed on page 4 of the Convention Manual.

A motion to accept the Standing Rules as read was made, seconded and approved.

The delegates were directed to the Revised Agenda as found in the Convention Supplement on page 122

A motion to accept the Agenda was made, seconded and approved.

6. President's Report - Part One

The theme for President Newton's address to the convention was *"The CNH District - A New Generation presenting the Gospel."* In the first part of two, Rev. Newton addressed the "Challenge". To begin, he noted that *"The race belongs to Jesus alone"*, we simply run the race with Jesus.

In a brief history of our District he stated that the first convention of the *"California - Oregon"* district was held in 1887. The mission in those early days was to the German immigrants. He noted that the mission today is different but still belongs to Christ.

Rev. Newton identified three distinct Mission fields; Churched, Post-Churched and Pre-Churched. In what he referred to as the *"Collapse of Christendom"*, the question is asked, "Who is in charge?". In the Churched era, the church is in charge. The bridge between the people and the church is strong. As we move into the Post-Church era, the bridge has collapsed and the Church is marginalized. At this point the focus is on the Pre-churched era where the churches task is to rebuild the bridge.

The new realities for the church involve the rise of Post-Modernism and the challenges to the Judeo/Christian thought. We find ourselves dealing with the "Rise of the Nones" These are the people who do not identify with any religion. In these times, the church is not in charge. All too often the response at this point is for the church to "Circle the wagons" in defense.

The president went on to consider what it means to be a "Confessing Lutheran" Holding fast to our confession of Christ - Confessing Christ to the world. Too often this means, "Circle the Wagons".

Lutheran Confessions provide:

- Evangelical Witness to the World.
- Teaching instruments for our members.
- A test of orthodoxy for our members and especially for our teachers.

The fear is that when we lose the first - Evangelical Witness, we are left only with the last two. Rev. Newton referenced an essay entitled "The Ageless Danger" written by Synod president Schwann in 1862 which deals with this subject. Essays by President Schwann under the title *"Propositions on Un-evangelical Practices"* can be found in the miscellaneous section of the Convention Manual.

President Newton closed, leading to part two of his presentation saying, *"With Christ in Charge, The Church Enters a New Era of Mission"*.

7. Election of the District President

Chair of the Committee for Elections, Rev. Mitch Gowen noted that there were two pastors, Rev. Dr. Robert Newton and Rev. Dr. Thomas Zelt, that received 3 or more nominations making them eligible to be on the ballot. Rev. Gowen noted that Pastor Zelt has respectfully declined the nomination. Chairman Paul Hoffmann read a letter addressed to the delegates from Rev. Zelt. Paul offered a prayer before the vote.

The 1st Vice-President called for the vote. The election of Rev. Dr. Robert Newton to a 4th term as the CNH District President was affirmed by vocal acclimation and was celebrated with the singing of the doxology.

8. Nomination of the 1st Vice-President

Elections Chair Mitch Gowen introduced the process of nomination for the 1st Vice President. Nomination is accomplished by Nomination Ballot as specified in the District By-Laws. As such, each delegate is given the opportunity to participate in the nomination process. After time was allowed, the Elections Committee collected the ballots for tabulation.

9. Report from CNH District Church Extension Fund

CEF President Donald Busse offered an overview of the activity of CEF for the past triennium. He noted that in working with the District's Mission Focus, CEF has made available \$500,000.00 for Mission loans. These loans are available at zero % interest to qualified applicants. The loans are guaranteed by the District with a minimal interest payment made by the Mission Agency.

A full report is included in the Convention Manual. Some of the highlights include 347 Short term mission grants totaling \$78,000.00 which have allowed members of the District to serve in 23 countries as well as 8 locations in the United States.

Troubled loans have been identified and addressed. As a result, delinquencies are quite low. Loan activity has been low, about 70% of the last triennium. This is similar to activity in the rest of the Synod.

Some of the projects that have been completed with funding from CEF include an Education Annex for Faith - Seaside; Good Shepherd - Healdsburg purchased their former pastor's home. Town and Country - Sacramento, Calvary - San Lorenzo, Trinity - Wahiawa and St. John - Fallon converted lines of credit to term loans. Grace - Visalia, St. Paul's - Susanville, Our Savior - Aiea and Zion - Winnemucca received loans for updates and repairs to property. Mission Loans totaling \$22,500.00 were provided to First Lutheran - Greenville and Our Savior - Chester.

President Busse reviewed items of a financial nature as well. He noted that CEF continues to provide the mechanism for all Lutherans to share in the growth of the kingdom through their investments. For many, this may be the prime mission or church building activity in which they participate.

10. LWML Report

District LWML President Lynnette Campbell spoke to the delegates about their Convention which focused on the theme of "Putting on the Armor of God". She asked the convention to encourage the women of their congregations to be active in mission through the LWML. She also noted that LWML website has many excellent resources. Rev Ted Hartman offered prayers for Lynnette and the work of the LWML.

11. Recognition of International Mission

President Newton mentioned several members of the CNH District who are, or soon will be serving in the international Mission Field. The list is long. It is a blessing that so many of our people have developed the gifts that lead them into the Mission field. A multi-media presentation was offered in celebration of the work of these Sisters and Brothers in Christ. The presentation was followed with prayer by President Newton.

12. President's Report - Part Two

Strategic Directions - Answering the Challenges. Rev. Newton began by noting that the Global South now holds the world's largest concentration of Christians. *"West Reaches the Rest"* is over. There is now no dominant Ethnic group in California. San Jose is comprised of 10% Vietnamese. The CNH District is represented more fully by the Pacific Rim than by those from the Mid-West.

The President laid down what he calls the "4 planks" of Mission in the CNH.

1. *Organizing for Mission in the CNH* - Staff, Board of Directors, Circuit Visitors are all dedicated to Mission advancement in the CNH - *"Proclaiming the Gospel where the church is not"*.
2. *Strategic Alliances* - We share similar challenges with the PSW and NW districts as well as Latin America, Pacific Rim and Other Peoples.

Purpose: Training our Church Workers
Equipping the Baptized

3. *Planting Faith Communities* - Word and Sacrament (Congregations and Beyond Congregations)
4. *Intercessory Prayer* - Prayer life is directly connected to how much you feel that you are or are not in control.

These are the "Planks" upon which we build our Mission activities in the CNH.

At this point, Chairman Hoffmann ask the delegates to gather in groups of four to discuss the merits of what they had just heard in President Newton's address. The Chairman noted that the comments generated and recorded in the small groups will be used by staff and the Board of Directors in future planning.

13. Voting Machine Practice

President Newton introduced Jim Eaton who is handling the voting Machines. As a "Dry Run", several questions concerning the delegates thoughts on the "4 Planks" as outlined in Rev. Newton's presentation were asked. These responses will be used by Staff and the Board of Directors in future planning.

14. Convention Business

Rev. Mitch Gowen, Chair of the Elections committee, reported that of the 104 nominations received by the committee, there were 21 individual pastors nominated for the office of 1st Vice President. As per our Bylaws, those with at least 10% of the ballots cast (10 nominations) will comprise the slate for the office. Of the 21, only 2 pastors received the required minimum; Rev Paul Hoffmann and Rev. Dr. Tom Zelt. Chairman Gowen reported that Pastor Hoffmann thanks the delegates for the honor but has respectfully declined the nomination. As such, Rev. Zelt stands unopposed for the office of 1st Vice President. The vote was called for and was taken by voice. The outcome was overwhelmingly "Aye" proclaiming Rev. Dr. Thomas Zelt as the 1st Vice President for the coming triennium. The Doxology was sung by the convention in celebration.

15. Mission Agency Report

Mission Agency Director, Rev. Mike Lange began by noting that many people feel that Mission is "overseas". He stated that in reality, Mission is wherever the church is not. Rev. Lange reported that the Mission Agency got its start in March of 2013. He has learned that God sees in terms of people not places. There have been three starts since the inception of the Agency; Addis Kidan, Faith-So. San Francisco and St. John's - Valley of Faith. In addition, several new Mission Ministries have started throughout the CNH District. Intentional Ministry Revitalization is also a part of the Agency's focus. Strategic partnerships are being developed with CNH, PSW and The NW Districts.

A video asking "What are you excited about in ministry" was shown in which several people from the new Mission starts were interviewed concerning their answer to that question.

16. Convention Business

Resolution 1-01 -- Rev. Daniel Deuel, Chair of the floor committee #1 - Missions introduced Resolution 1-01 - "Affirming and Strengthen the work of the Mission Agency".

At this time it was decided by a show of hands that the "Whereas" statements would not be read for Convention Resolutions.

After reading the resolution, there was a motion made and seconded to approve the resolution. A friendly motion was accepted which removed the words "and permanence in our structure" from line #30. ***The question was called by the Chair and was approved by a show of hands.***

Resolution 3-01-- Rev Stan Abraham introduced resolution 3-01 "To Renew another 3 Year Term of the District Disability Task Force". With no one coming to the microphones, ***the question was called by the Chair and approved by a show of hands.***

Resolution 3-08 -- Chairman Abraham introduced Resolution 3-08 "To Create a Youth Task Force for the CNH District" The Resolution was moved and seconded. A question regarding funding was raised from the floor. President Newton noted that the Task Force would be under the Mission Agency and that there would be no appreciable impact on the budget. A friendly amendment was accepted by the committee which added the words, "3 of the 5 will be actively involved in Youth Ministry in either a professional or volunteer capacity in their congregations". This is to be inserted in line 13 before, "And be it further resolved". Seeing no further questions, the question was called by the Chair. ***The motion was approved by a show of hands.***

Resolution #4-01-- Chairman Ted Zimmerman of Committee #4, introduced resolution 4-01 "To Realign Congregations in Circuits #6 and #17". A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution. With no questions from the floor, the vote was called by the Chair and the ***Resolution was approved by acclamation.***

17. Recess

At 5:20 p.m. the Friday session was recessed by the Chair. Delegates were instructed to report to their assigned areas for Regional Caucuses to choose Lay and Pastoral representatives to the District Board of Directors. Those selections are to be affirmed tomorrow by the delegates in Convention.

Respectfully Submitted

Rev. John M. Standley
CNH District Secretary

The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod
California - Nevada - Hawaii
70th District Convention

Second Session / Mission Conference
Saturday April 18th, 2015

1. Opening

President Newton opened the second day of the 70th Convention of the CNH District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod at 7:50 a.m. He introduced the Rev. John Bestul for the opening devotion.

2. Opening Devotion

Rev. Bestul opened in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. He continued with the convention theme of “Run the Race, Eyes fixed on Jesus”. His message centered around Jesus and His disciples and the storm on the Sea of Galilee. The devotion closed with prayer and the singing of “*Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me*”

Mission Agency Executive Director Mike Lange presented a short video “Mission Moment”.

3. Vice President Elect Tom Zelt

President Newton introduced Rev. Dr. Tom Zelt, newly elected 1st Vice President of the District. Rev. Zelt spoke briefly about a class that he is teaching at the St. Louis Seminary and other opportunities that have opened for him. He thanked the delegates for the honor of allowing him to serve the District once again. He talked about some of the challenges that are ahead of the District in the coming triennium. With all of the gifts and talents that we have in our congregations, how do we effectively join those with our needs? He encouraged congregations to consider short term mission opportunities. He closed by reminding the convention that Jesus emerged from His tomb over two thousand years ago and “*he’s been on the loose ever since*”.

4. Synod-Wide President – Rev. Matthew Harrison.

President Harrison began with a video produced by Synod – “*Upon This Rock – Mercy, Witness, Life Together*”.

Pres. Harrison spoke about the negative financial status of the Synod as he came into office. He noted that he was told by the finance office recently, that the Synod's debt has now been repaid. The president stated that we have over 200 missionaries in the field currently. He believes that we can exceed the record of 250 international missionaries. Traditionally, mission agencies have been about social ministries, most are now in decline. The activity of the LC MS in mission is

about the gospel. This is the LCMS's moment. Harrison spoke about doors that are opening all over the world. Japan, South Korea and others are requesting missionaries from the LCMS. At the same time, the domestic front is challenging. In the US the LC MS is in decline, 18% in the last 40 years. Even so, other than the Catholics and Baptists, the LC MS has performed better than other denominations. The LC MS performs best where the population is less secular and more rural. Much of the decline comes from European descent Christians, which describes many and the base of the LC-MS.

He noted that statistics show that the things we often argue about, for example, worship styles don't seem to have much of an effect on the numbers. Pres. Harrison talked about communion practices and pastoral discretion. He encouraged true "Pastoral "Discretion".

The President talked about Concordia Publishing House, the LWML, LCEF, our Seminaries and the Concordia University System as well as other organizations within the Synod. He talked at length about the newly formed Lutheran Federal Credit Union. He also spoke about the Wittenberg project noting that Luther's church currently has an average attendance of about 50 people. He stated that an office is being established in Washington D.C. by Synod whose mission will be to provide an aggressive defense for religious freedom. Finances are in place for that project, staffing is yet to be determined. The President went on to speak about the loss of religious freedom in our country and the need for a response. A period of Question and Answer followed.

At this point in the proceedings the convention was placed in recess until two o'clock to begin the Mission Conference.

CNH DISTRICT MISSION CONFERENCE

PLENARY SPEAKER - PART ONE

Mission Agency Executive Director Rev. Mike Lang introduced the Mission Conference plenary speaker Rev. Greg Finke. Greg is Executive Director of Dwelling 1:14. As he explained it, the name comes from John chapter 1 verse 14 "The Word became flesh and blood and moved into our neighborhood". As he spoke to the conference, he stated that we have the ability to reach people. If people don't come to church, we're not done. He referred to his book "Joining Jesus on his Mission-How to become an Everyday Missionary". Jesus is on a mission. He knows where he's going, he knows what he's doing. It is what we do with what we know that changes our neighborhood. Our job is "seed distribution", not germination, roots and sprouts - that's God's work. The mindset for mission used to be that you gave somebody money and then sent them off someplace. In reality being a missionary is part of our vocation. It is where we live, it is where we work. It's all about who I am and what I have. That leads us to "what I can do". We don't go for Jesus-we go with Jesus. We are not Jesus' salespeople. We are Jesus' followers.

Mission Effectiveness: Good = Make a Difference

Better = Make a Friend

Best = Make a Disciple

We are not just saved from - We are also saved for - loving our neighbor. Is the real question, "What does this mean?" Or is it rather, "What if he really means this?"

Fear = False Expectations Appearing Real

Neighboring Formula ---- Unhurried Time + Proximity + Activity (Food) = Conversation x Over Time = Friendship.

“JESUS IS ON A MISSION – IT IS OUR PRIVILEGE TO JOIN HIM.”

The Conference attendees were directed to the breakout sessions they had signed up for when they registered. Plenary Session #2 will convene in the main hall at 2:00 p.m.

The following is a list of the Breakout Sessions and Presenters.

- ***An Intentional Joint Mission*** led by Dan Dueck and Staff (morning and afternoon)
- ***Following Jesus’ Lead: Make Disciples*** led by Greg Finke and Mike Lange (morning only)
- ***How to Have a Mission Trip into Everyday Life*** led by Greg Finke (afternoon only)
- ***Ripples of Reality*** led by Ted and Marty Hartman (morning and afternoon)
- ***HOP Day (Helping Other People)—Creating a Congregational Servant Heart and Opportunity in Your Community*** led by Debi Lancina (morning and afternoon)
- ***Striving to be an IRRESISTABLE Church: Introduction to Disability Ministry*** led by Debbie Lillo (morning only)
- ***Autism and the Church*** led by Debbie Lillo (afternoon only)
- ***“Christian” Community Development: What’s it Look Like?*** led by Aaron Putnam (morning and afternoon)
- ***Can Exorcism Play an Important Role in Our Evangelistic Efforts?*** Led by Andry Randrianasolo (morning and afternoon)
- ***Mapping for Mission in Multiple Neighborhoods*** led by Brent Smith (morning and afternoon)

PLENARY SPEAKER - PART TWO

Rev. Finke began with an overview of what will be covered in this second session.

“What’s Your Plan?” -- Clear, simple, The Way, Jesus did it. -- His invitation to ", follow me" was an invitation to be discipled and to disciple.

“What is a disciple?” -- A disciple follows Jesus but to what end? What is it that distinguishes a disciple from those who just followed him around?

Discipling Like Jesus = Multiplication / *Matthew 28*

- **Baptizing** (*Who you are and What you have*)
- **Replicating** (*Multiplication / Adding Disciples*)
- **Imitating** (*Practicing / Sanctification*)

"What does a Disciple do?" "What was the main practice of Jesus?" -- The Plan of the Father

John 5:19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

John 5:30 "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

"How do you form a disciple?" (*Like a Rabbi does.*)

- **Words** (*Tell me how*)
- **Imitating** (*Practicing*)
- **Replicating** (*Show others how*)

As it turns out, Discipling is quite simple – Mastering information follows putting information into practice.

Discipling Mindset Shifts

- *From Discipling = Tell me how / To Discipling = Show me how*
- *From Discipling = Larger Groups / To Discipling = Smaller Groups*
- *from Discipling = Were they in class? / To Discipling = Is there change*
- *From Discipling = Addition Slowly / To Discipling = Multiplication Rapidly*

Five Practices of Discipling

1. Seeking His Kingdom
2. Hearing from Him in the Gospels
3. Talking with people (simply focusing on those Jesus is already having cross our path)
4. Doing good (blessing people)
5. Ministering through prayer

Mission Agency Executive Director Mike Lange thanked Rev. Finke for his work during the conference. Mike noted that Greg will be back in the district in January and again in March. Rev. Lange offered a prayer for Greg's continued success in furthering the gospel. He thanked the Breakout Session presenters for their work. The Mission Conference attendees will be receiving a survey in the near future. --This concluded the Mission Conference.

70th CONVENTION of the CNH District / LC-MS RESUMES

5. Recognition Of Guests and Committees

Throughout the rest of today's session several introductions were made during the Elections of Officers, voting on Resolutions and other Convention Business to facilitate the flow of the Convention. These included the following:

Paul Mueller – Northwest District / Concordia – Portland

Vickie Biggs – Concordia Seminary – St. Louis

The Comfort Dog – St. John's Lutheran Church – Napa

Rev. Aaron Smith -- Hispanic Council

6. Report On Registration

Registration Committee Chair, Rev. James Kabel offered the following report at 2:55 p.m.:

Voting Lay Delegates = 108

Voting Pastoral Delegates = 101

Total Voting Delegates = 209

Total Non-voting Participants = 144

Total Registered = 353

Motion was made, seconded and approved by acclamation to accept the report.

7. Election Of District Officers

District Secretary -- Current Secretary Rev. John M. Standley's name was offered by the Nominations Committee. Two other candidates were removed having been elected previously in their Regional Caucus. The Chair asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none a motion to close the nominations was seconded and approved. Secretary Standley was re-elected by acclamation.

District Treasurer -- Current Treasurer Donna Herzog's name was offered by the Nominations Committee. The Chair asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none a motion to close the nominations was seconded and approved. Treasurer Herzog was re-elected by acclamation.

8. Affirmation of Elections

The selection of Regional Vice-Presidents and Lay Representatives to the CNH District Board of Directors as previously elected by their respective Regional Caucuses were affirmed by the Convention by a show of hands. Those elected are as follows:

Northern Region

Rev. Jim Beyer

Bill Swift

Southern Region

Rev. Clarence Eisberg

Marilyn Maxner

Pacific Region

Rev. Aaron Smith

Jim Hillmann

Hawaii Region

Rev. Bill Carney

Dinnie Kysar

Nevada Region

Rev. Norm Milz

Tom Brannan

The Slate of Circuit Visitors as published in the Convention Manual was ratified by the Convention by a show of hands.

CIRCUIT VISITOR

Circuit # 1	Rev. Terrence Chan	Circuit #11	Rev. Milton Fricke
Circuit #2	Rev. David Sauer	Circuit #12	Rev. James Cavener
Circuit #3	Rev. Daniel Deuel	Circuit #13	Rev. James Kabel
Circuit #4	Rev. Henry Scherer	Circuit #14	Rev. James Beyer
Circuit #5	Rev. Daniel Schlensker	Circuit #15	Rev. Michael Hall
Circuit #6	Rev. Ted Zimmerman	Circuit #16	Rev. Stanley Abraham
Circuit #7	Rev. Peter Woodward	Circuit #17	
Circuit #8	Rev. Stewart Crown	Circuit #18	Rev. John Bestul
Circuit #9	Rev. Mark Whittaker	Circuit #19	Rev. John – Paul Meyer
Circuit #10	Rev. Jon Oetting	Circuit #20	Rev. Alan Hilton

9. Election of the Commissioned Minister to the CNH District Board of Directors.

The Nominations Committee offered three names for consideration:

Patrice Appold - Bakersfield, CA

Donna Laughlin - San Francisco

Mike Mancini - Redwood City, CA

The Chair asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, a motion to close the nominations was seconded and approved. Mike Mancini was elected on the second ballot. Elections Chair Rev. Mitch Gowen offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the preceding elections.

10. Resolutions

- **RE: To Encourage Ongoing Discussions Regarding the Admission to the Lord's Supper**

Committee #2 -- Resolution (2-01) -- Convention Supplement pg. 110-111 -- Overture 12

A motion was made and seconded to approve. The Chair asked for discussion. Hearing none, *the resolution was approved by a show of hands.*

- **RE: To Remove From The District Bylaws References To Regional Mission Action Councils**

Committee #4 -- Resolution (4-05) -- Convention Supplement pg. 134 -- Overture 17

A motion was made and seconded to approve. The Chair asked for discussion. Hearing none, *the resolution was approved by a show of hands.*

- **RE: To Form A Task Force To Study Regional Representation On The California-Nevada-Hawaii District Board Of Directors**

Committee #4 -- Resolution (4-02) -- Convention Supplement pp. 109-110 -- Overture 11

A motion was made and seconded to approve. The Chair asked for discussion. Hearing none, *the resolution was approved by a show of hands.*

- **RE: To Change The Process For Election Of The First Vice-President**

Committee #4 -- Resolution (4-03) -- Convention Supplement p. 115 -- Overture 15

A motion was made and seconded to approve. There was some discussion as to whether the wording of the Bylaw change needed to be approved by the delegates. It was the opinion of the Parliamentarian that a draft of the proposed Bylaw would be crafted by the DCCM which would then be presented to the District Board of Directors for approval and inclusion in the Bylaws. *The resolution was approved by a show of hands.*

- **RE: To Hold California-Nevada-Hawaii District Conventions On Days Of The Week Other Than Sunday.**

Committee 4 -- Resolution (4-04) -- Convention Supplement p. 114 -- Overture 14

A motion was made and seconded to approve. There was considerable discussion on the resolution. There was concern by some that taking away the option of a Sunday session would be a burden on some Lay Delegates. Others argued that meeting on Sunday raised problems for congregations having to find pastors to cover their service for the day. *The vote was accomplished by electronic ballot and approved by 80% of the votes cast.*

- **RE: To Encourage And Affirm The Ministry Of Licensed Lay Deacons**

Committee # 1 -- Resolution (1-02) -- Convention Supplement p. 111-114 -- Overture 13

A motion was made and seconded to approve. After a period of discussion there was an amendment to strike lines 35 and 36 on page 15 which called for the resolution to be forwarded to the 2016 Synod-wide convention. The amendment was declined by a vote of 75% against - 25% for. An amendment to change the word *special* in line 18 on page 15 to *specific* was accepted as a friendly amendment by Committee Chair, Rev. Dan Deuel. *The question was called by the Chair and approved by a Voice vote.*

11. Election of Members to the CEF Board

Three positions to the CEF Board of Directors were slated to be filled. The Nominations Committee offered the following three names:

Rev. Robert Fickenscher - Fair Oaks CA

Kaylene Mortensen – Merced, CA

Richard Schultz – Rocklin, CA

A motion was made, seconded and approved to close the nominations. *The slate as presented was elected by a show of hands.*

12. Election of Members to the District Nominations Committee

Pastoral Member - The Nominations Committee forwarded two names to be considered for the open Pastoral position; Rev. Jason Bredeson and Rev. Aaron Smith. Rev. Smith was elected as serve as Pacific Regional Vice-President to the District Board of Directors and his name was taken out of consideration. Hearing no nominations from the floor the nominations were closed and **Rev. Jason Bredeson was elected by a show of hands.**

Lay Member – There are two positions open for the Lay Member. The nominations committee offered the following three names for consideration:

Carol Hack Broome - San Jose, CA

Cheryl Hamil - Cupertino, CA

Marcia Houseworth - Fremont, CA

Hearing no nominations from the floor the nominations were closed.

- On the first ballot there was no clear majority. Cheryl Hamil received the fewest number of votes, her name was cleared for the second vote.
- Carol Hack Broome and Marcia Houseworth made up the second ballot. **Marcia Houseworth was elected.**
- For the third ballot, the candidates were Carol Hack Broome and Cheryl Hamil. **Carol Hack Broome was elected.**

Carol Hack Broome and Marcia Houseworth will serve on the District Nominations Committee for the coming triennium.

There was a motion from the floor to extend today's session through the two remaining elections. The motion was seconded and approved.

13. Election of the Commissioned Minister to the District Nominations Committee.

The Nominations Committee has forwarded the following two names for consideration:

Patrice Appold - Bakersfield, CA

Donna Laughlin - San Francisco, CA

There were no nominations from the floor. *Patrice Appold was elected to serve on the District's Nominations Committee.*

13. Election of the District's Lay Member to the Synod-Wide Convention's Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee has forwarded the following two names for consideration:

Richard Fielitz Jr. - Rocklin, CA

Terence Lung - Cupertino CA

The Chair opened nominations from the floor. Richard Parker was nominated by Rev. Jim Beyer. The nominations were closed by the Chair.

Richard Parker was elected on the second ballot.

14. Closing of the Second Session

Rev. Ted Hartman offered prayer for those elected. The 2nd session of the 70th Convention of the CNH District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod was adjourned by President Robert Newton at 5:10 p.m. to resume tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. John M. Standley
CNH District Secretary

The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod
California - Nevada - Hawaii
70th District Convention
Final Session
Sunday April 19th, 2015

1. Opening

President Newton opened the third and final day of the 70th Convention of the CNH District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod at 9:10 a.m. He introduced Rev. Rob Weller for the Morning's devotion.

2. Opening Devotion

Pastor Weller read the Gospel lesson from Luke Chapter 24. He spoke about the disbelief of the disciples concerning the resurrection of their Lord Jesus Christ. The devotion was closed with prayer, ending with the Lord's Prayer.

3. Report On Registration

At 9:23 a.m. Registration Committee Chair, Rev. James Kabel offered the following report which remained unchanged from yesterday's final report.:

Voting Lay Delegates = 108

Voting Pastoral Delegates = 101

Total Voting Delegates = 209

Total Non-voting Participants = 144

Total Registered = 353

Motion was made, seconded and approved by a show of hands to accept the report.

4. Approval of Convention Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of Friday's sessions as presented by the Secretary. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved as presented.

5. Resolutions

Rev. Jon Oetting spoke for Committee #3 - Congregational Ministries, presenting the following resolutions:

- **RE: TO PROVIDE STAFF AND MATERIAL RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF RURAL MINISTRY**

Committee #3 - Resolution (3-07) - Convention Supplement pgs. 107 - Overture 8

A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 3-07. The Chair asked for discussion. Hearing none, ***the resolution was approved by a show of hands.***

- **RE: TO ECONOURAGE CONGREGATIONS AND MINISTRIES TO USE THE DISASTER RESPONSE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THEM**

Committee #3 - Resolution 3-02 - Convention Supplement pp. 103-104, 104-105 - Overtures 3, 4, 5 . The committee moved to approve the resolution and the motion was seconded. There was some discussion with two amendments coming from the floor, both were received by the committee as Friendly amendments. *The first was to add the words, “to be aware of and encouraged”* after CNH District on Page 19, line 41. The line would read, *“to be aware of and encouraged to make use of...”*. *The second amendment added the words “and other congregations”* on page 19, line 47 after the mention of ELCA counterparts. Hearing no further discussion *the question was called by the Chair and approved as amended.*

- **RE: TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS OF THE DISTRICT TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF SENIOR HOUSING AND ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS TO DEVELOP SOLUTIONS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES**

Committee #3 - Resolution (3-05) - Convention Supplement pg. 106 - Overture 6
A motion was made and seconded to approve. The Chair asked for discussion. Hearing none, *the resolution was approved by a show of hands.*

- **RE: OVERTURE TO OVERRULE CCM OPINION 14-2724**

Committee #1 - Resolution (1-03) - Ref.: Convention Manual p. 102 - Overture 1
Committee Chair, Rev. Daniel Deuel introduced the resolution and moved for approval. The motion was seconded. Synod President Matthew Harrison was recognized by the Chair and spoke to the motion offering insight from the CCM’s (Committee on Constitutional Matters) position which is that congregations should not be sending called workers to serve in overseas missions. He went on to say that this does not mean that congregations are prohibited from supporting overseas missions. He noted that the bylaw seeks to have us work together on these mission endeavors for many reasons, including the safety of the missionaries. President Newton passed the gavel to Parliamentarian, Rev. Richard Rice and took a place at one of the microphones. President Newton stated that he agreed with what Rev. Harrison had said but that the CCM’s opinion reaches further. He went on to say that it is the feeling of many that the opinion of the CCM gets in the way of mission partnerships. In further discussion, delegates spoke both for and against the resolution. When the discussion ended, Rev. Rice called the question by a show of hands. While there were votes against the resolution, there were considerably more in favor of acceptance. *The Chair declared the resolution approved.*

6. Closing

President Newton returned to the podium. In his closing remarks he thanked the Audio Visual staff including Matt Newton and Joel Koerschen. He also thanked Convention Photographer, Don Bonnet. After several announcements from the floor President Newton closed the 70th Convention of the CNH District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod at 10:10 a.m. Corporate worship followed the Convention.

Respectfully Submitted

Rev. John M. Standley
CNH District Secretary