

One People—Forgiven
Sunday, Day 2

by Rev. Langdon Reinke, Northwest District Secretary

Before many in Christ were attending Sunday morning worship, the delegates to the LCMS convention were eating breakfast with President Linnemann at the Hyatt. Reminding us that we are new creations in Christ (2 Cor. 5), Paul challenged NOW delegates to stage our decisions with this reality in mind. Our guest speaker, Assistant to President Kieschnick, Rev. John Braunersreuther, highlighted several resolutions that would be coming up soon that had special significance for the Northwest District.

Then on to the convention hall where Houston pastors, Rev. Walt Waiser and Rev. Oscar Benavides, Executive Director at LINC North Texas, led the delegates in a reflective service of prayer and the word. Standing rules and schedule were adopted to govern our time together, and then we rejoiced in a study of God's Word. Ted Kober, President of Ambassadors for Reconciliation, led a study on the difference between conflict resolution and reconciliation.

President Kieschnick gave the third part of his report explaining that "the LCMS is not your grandfather's church." By this he meant, not that our church is changing any of our doctrine or confessional stance, but that the world around us has changed so much, that we need to translate what we know in our head, to our hearts, lives, and the community around us. He reminded us to be diligent in our mission in Christ and received a standing ovation.

Delegates were welcomed to Houston by Col. Jeffrey Williams, a Nasa astronaut, and Ken Hennings, President of the Texas District. Finally to the task at hand, delegates spent the rest of the morning and afternoon listening to presentations on the proposed changes to Synod's structure and governance and why this is necessary at this time. Interspersed were prayers, devotions, and thought provoking videos reminding us of our calling to be One People—Forgiven.