

One People—Forgiven

Day 6, Thursday

This morning, former NOW District President, Warren Schumacher, gave a presentation to the Northwest Delegates during breakfast that discussed the way our Synod is organized and the importance of the Committee on Constitution Matters to help sort out some of the confusing moments in our Synod's organization. Rev. Paul Linnemann helped to orient the delegates on what may be coming up on the convention floor.

Then on to George R. Brown convention hall where Dr. Shang Ik Moon, Director of the Synod's Korean Pastoral Colloquy Program challenged the convention by asking whether we are not also the scattered people of God in our land (1 Peter 2:9-12), who have a heritage and hope, and are called to bloom where we are planted. Then special recognition was given to various people and guests from various Lutheran church bodies around the world. Brad Hewitt, President and CEO of Thrivent Financial shared the beginnings of Thrivent, from being a fraternal organization that guarded against the degradation of charity, to a Fortune 500 company that uses tax advantages in order to benefit churches.

On the floor, business and elections ensued. One special item was a resolution that pledged to help combat malaria. Rev. Walter Obare, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya, presented to the delegates staggering figures. In Kenya there is a 60% infant mortality rate largely due to malaria, which is a bigger killer than HIV AIDS. He shared that in his family of 15, malaria had taken 10 of his brothers and sisters. Once the resolution was passed, the convention rose with a standing ovation to mark this moment of decision.

Bible Study was led by Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor who gave a rousing message that shared the story of Redeemer Lutheran Church in the Bronx, NY, who involved their community in the proclamation of God's forgiveness. A couple of confusing dilemmas regarding nominations were sorted out. Then business continued until a medical emergency halted the proceeding for a while. (The delegate later returned to the convention and all was well.)

Another moving highlight of the convention was a presentation regarding Lutheran World Relief and Human Care's relief to Haiti following the devastating earthquake on January 12, 2010. Rev. Marki Kasa, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti, addressed the convention. Over 350,000 Haitians died in the earthquake, millions were injured, and more than two million people were homeless, many of them still, after 6 months, are seeking their loved ones. After the presentation the convention rose in standing ovation to support our Haitian brothers and sisters. Elections and business continued.

After all was done for the day, delegates and guests were invited to meet in the evening with President Elect, Rev. Matthew Harrison and the newly elected Vice Presidents at a reception held in the Hilton Grand Ball Room.

The convention in session voted to adopt the following items:

Committee 2: District and Congregational Services

- ❖ 2-01 To Continue to Support Various Ministries (Children, Family, School, Singles, Stewardship, Youth and Campus)
- ❖ 2-02 To Assist Congregations and Support Workers in Planning and Implementing “Reduction in Force” Policies
- ❖ 2-04 Encourage Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families

Committee 3: Theology and Church Relations

- ❖ 3-03 To Support Confession Lutheranism at Home and Abroad

Committee 4: Administration and Finance

- ❖ 4-08 To Improve Procedure for Establishing Synod Convention Times and Locations
- ❖ 4-07 To Amend Bylaws regarding Convention Preparations

Committee 5: Seminary and University Education

- ❖ 5-04 To Increase Impact of Vicarage Program
- ❖ 5-08 To Revise Bylaw concerning the Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry
- ❖ 5-09B To Revise Bylaws regarding Board of Regents Qualifications
- ❖ 5-10 To Clarify Bylaws regarding the Promotion of Faculty

Committee 6: Human Care

- ❖ 6-01 To Commend LCMS Disaster Relief Work, especially in Haiti
- ❖ 6-02A To Be a Light for Life
- ❖ 6-04A To Combat Malaria
- ❖ 6-07A To Support Efforts to End Human Trafficking/Slavery

Committee 7: Ecclesial Matters

- ❖ 7-03 Provide for Removal of Individual Board or Committee Members
- ❖ 7-04A Approve Changes to the Process of Bylaws 2.14, 2.15, and 2.17
- ❖ 7-05 Clarify Bylaws on Specific Ministry Pastor Limitations
- ❖ 7-06A Addressing Bylaws Concerning Congregations Calling Pastors and Commissioned Ministers.

For more details, and election results, see www.lcms.org.