

One People—Forgiven!

Tuesday, Day 4 in Houston

More surprises awaited the delegates to the convention today, as delegates chose the new President and Vice Presidents of Synod. After 9 years of mission-driven leadership under the direction of Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, the delegates chose to go in a new direction and elected, by a generous margin, Rev. Matthew Harrison, Executive Director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care. Both President and President-Elect had opportunity to address the assembly. Reactions were mixed about the decision, but the entire convention affirmed the new leader of our Synod and thanked our current leader with a standing ovation for each of them. Changes also occurred in the elections of the five Vice Presidents, with Herbert Mueller Jr. elected 1st Vice President, and VP's 2-5 being, in order: John Wohlrabe Jr., Paul Maier, Daniel Preus, and Scott Murray. Also the stage was set for tomorrow's elections of the members of the Board and Secretary.

Northwest delegates began the day with breakfast at the Hyatt with Rev. Tom Zehnder, Executive Director of LCMS Board for Mission Services telling us poignant stories of the Spirit-driven mission work that Lutherans do around the world. Morning devotions at the convention were led by Rev. David Andrus, Founder and Executive Director of Lutheran Blind Mission Society, who reminded us that both those who are marginalized by society and those who are at its center are both forgiven by Jesus (Luke 7). Delegates also enjoyed another very touching Bible Study by Mr. Ted Kober concerning the importance of forgiveness in the family that should be specific, personal, and direct (*see video and printed resources available online at www.lcms.org*). Lutheran Hour speaker, Rev. Ken Klaus reminded us that we are family in Christ. Rev. L. Dean Hempelman encouraged delegates to help recruit more pastors through the "What a Way" initiative. Rev. Dick Vie encouraged us to financially support church workers and other projects through the "For the Sake of the Church" initiative.

Much convention business was also accomplished:

Committee 3: Theology and Church Relations

- ❖ 3-01A To Commend the ILC and Task Force Statements as Responses to the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Actions
- ❖ 3-02A To Support Confessional Lutheranism at Home and Abroad

Committee 4: Administration and Finance

- ❖ 4-01A To Lead Districts and Synod in a Stewardship Renaissance
- ❖ 4-02 To address Corporate Synod's Financial Crisis
- ❖ 4-03 To Broadly Communicate the Financial Position of the LCMS
- ❖ 4-05 To Revise Convention Election Process

Committee 8: Synod Structure and Governance

- ❖ 8-07 Approval to Study Future District Function and Configuration
- ❖ 8-16A Ensuring Regional Representation on the Board of Directors As We Nominate and Elect

❖ 8-39

To Appoint the VP Finance Treasurer (Instead of Elect)

Delegates were tired at the end of the day, and many found relief by dining in downtown Houston and enjoying the fellowship of friends and new acquaintances. At the end of the day, we continually have joy in the good news that the Lord is the head of his Church, and we are his servants, One People—Forgiven!