



Convocation hears vision updates, affirms decisions

The 2021 NALC Mission Convocation heard updates on the 10 points of the NALC's 2020 *Vision* and overwhelmingly approved two resolutions supporting decisions by the Executive Council to establish a central NALC office in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, area and to add four part-time assistants to the bishop.

The convocation revolved around the 10 points of the 2020 *Vision*. Each vision point was highlighted with oral and written reports. Opportunities for discussion of each point and questions from delegates were provided.

More than 400 delegates and visitors gathered August 4-6 in Corpus Christi, Texas, for the 2021 Mission Convocation around the theme, "God the Father Creates." The convocation and the events preceding it comprise the NALC's annual Lutheran Week.

2020 Vision Appeal: We are excited to share that we are moving forward with funding and implementing our 2020 *Vision* with the full support of the bishop and Executive Council. We are working with Cramer & Associates from Dublin, Ohio, a Christian-based philanthropic advisory firm, to execute this powerful and important initiative. We look forward to communicating and working with you on building our future.

Elections: The Rev. Mark Werner of Pittsgrove, New Jersey, and Joel Williams of Erwin, South Dakota, were elected to four-year terms on the Executive Council. The Rev. Dr. Jeffray Greene of Brooks, Georgia, and Matthew Lind of Bainbridge Island, Washington, were elected to the Court of Adjudication.

The Rev. Dr. Amy Little was installed as the **General Secretary** of the NALC. The general secretary is the chief operating officer of the NALC and manages its administrative functions.

A major address on the convocation theme, "God the Father Creates," was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Steven Paulson. He focused on the significance of the first article of the Apostles' Creed and Martin Luther's explanation of it in his Small Catechism.

Melissa Ohden told the **moving story of her life** as the survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion and now as an advocate for abortion survivors and pro-life policies.

2022 budgets were approved. The Convocation approved a \$2 million Operating Budget for the NALC. Budgets were also approved for the church's designated funds: \$875,000 for the Theological Education Fund (which includes the North American Lutheran Seminary); \$215,500 for the Great Commission Fund; and \$143,000 for the Disaster Response Fund.

Prayer for Ethiopia: The convocation unanimously approved a resolution inviting NALC pastors, congregations and members to unite in "intentional and intensive prayer for Ethiopia." Ethiopia is going through a time of significant political unrest. The NALC is in a full-communion relationship with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, the largest Lutheran church in the world.

Amendments to the NALC Constitution adding language naming mission districts and mission regions were approved. The amendments must be ratified by NALC congregations.

Reports of the work of the NALC's staff, teams, task forces, ministries and ministry partners were warmly received.

The Braaten-Benne Lectures in Theology, which preceded the convocation, focused on God the Father. Other events of Lutheran week included the Women of the NALC Annual Gathering and workshops on discipleship, stewardship and youth ministry.

Documents, photos and videos from the convocation and other events of Lutheran Week will be posted at lutheranweek.com.