



MISSIO DEI THE WORK & MISSION OF GOD

Lutheran Week 2023
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

MINUTES OF THE 2023 NALC MISSION CONVOCATION

August 9-11 | Oklahoma City, OK

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023

The chaplain for the 2023 Mission Convocation and the bishop of the North American Lutheran Church led the delegates and visitors in the liturgy of the Word in the Oklahoma Station Ballroom of the Omni Hotel in Oklahoma City. The liturgy included the rite of opening of a convocation.

Bishop began with a word of thanks to several individuals for their service to the delegates of the convocation. Bishop Selbo introduced Randy Stubbs and his daughters Megan and Marissa. They will be leading us in song during various times of the convocation.

Bishop Dan Selbo called the 2023 to order at 2:38 p.m. Bishop Selbo called upon Pastor Amy Little, general secretary of the NALC for a report on registration.

As of 2:14 p.m. the number of delegates present are:

224 lay delegates

245 clergy

145 visitors

614 total individuals were present.

Bishop Selbo introduced the dean of the North Texas Mission District, Pastor Kris Brower to bring us greetings.

On behalf of the NALC Executive Council, Pastor Amy Little moved the adoption of Rules of Procedure for the 2023 Mission Convocation. The bishop called on Pastor Carl Johnson, the Parliamentarian who walked us through the proposed Rules of Procedure.

Pastor David Baer moves to amend proposed rule number 5 to read “Each NALC officer, **North American Lutheran Seminary Professor** and each person serving in a position subject to election by a Convocation will have the right of voice and vote, at this Convocation.”

The Amendment passes.

The rules of procedure as amended have been adopted.

On behalf of the NALC Executive Council, Pastor Amy Little moved the approval of Agenda for the 2023 Mission Convocation.

Pastor Eugene Grimm moves to change the time of hearing the budget and treasurer's report and vote from Friday to Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. and move the report on the Lutheran Benefits Plan to Friday morning. The motion was second. The motion was defeated.

The agenda is adopted.

Introduction of Lutheran Week Planning Team

Chaplain: The Rev. Mac de Waal - pastormac@telus.net

Local Hospitality: Dawn Hahm - djhahm@indy.net

Local Hospitality: The Rev. Kris Brower - pr.kbrower@hotmail.com

Local Hospitality: Lynn Kickingbird - lkickingbird74@gmail.com

Technology: The Rev. Tony D. Ede - tonyede@gmail.com

WNALC: Kim Isiminger - kisiminger@gmail.com

Theologians FTC: The Rev. Dr. Orrey McFarland - orreymac@gmail.com

Braaten-Benne: The Rev. Dr. Nathan Yoder - yoder234@hotmail.com

Youth: The Rev. Teresa Peters - tpeters@thenalc.org

Ass't Chair: Becky Seifert - seifertbecky@yahoo.com

Chair: The Rev. William A. Hartfelder - w.hartfelder@mac.com

Planning Team Members, NALC Staff

The Rev. Dr. Amy Little - alittle@thenalc.org

The Rev. Dcn. Andrew Ames Fuller - aamesfuller@thenalc.org

The Rev. Susan Fox - sfox@thenalc.org

Anne Gleason - agleason@thenalc.org

Sarah Lewis - slouis@thenalc.org

Ariel Wicker - awicker@thenalc.org

Alana Brooks - abrooks@thenalc.org

Introduction of the Committee of Reference and Counsel

Mrs. Lynn Kickingbird

Bob Reynolds

The Rev. Ron Hoyum

Sarah Stenson

Introduction of Staff

The Rev. Dr. Amy C. Little—General Secretary

The Rev. Dcn. Andrew S. Ames Fuller—Director of Communications

The Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba—Assistant to the Bishop for International Mission

The Rev. Phillip Gagnon—Assistant to the Bishop for Domestic Mission & Discipleship (*Currently on medical leave*)

The Rev. Dr. Eric Riesen—President, North American Lutheran Seminary

The Rev. Dr. David Wendel—Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry & Ecumenism

Introduction of Administrative Staff

The Rev. Wendy Berthelsen—Assistant for Certification
Alana Brooks—Communications Assistant
The Rev. Susan Fox—Office Administrator
Rebecka Frontz—Administrative Coordinator, NALS
The Rev. Carol Fryer—Missions Specialist
Anne Gleason—Financial Administrator
Sarah Louis—Office Administrator
Steven Neaton—Communications Specialist
Ariel Wicker—Communications Specialist

Bishop Selbo introduced the five area assistants to the bishop

The Rev. Dr. Jess Abbott—Midwestern Area Assistant to the Bishop; Specialized Ministries and Military Endorsing Agent
The Rev. Mark Braaten—Southern Area Assistant to the Bishop
The Rev. Marv Combs—Western Area Assistant to the Bishop
The Rev. Kevin Ree—Northern Area Assistant to the Bishop
The Rev. Dr. Bill White—Eastern Area Assistant to the Bishop

The bishop called Pastor Phillip Gagnon forward. Pastor Gagnon has been on medical leave and shared the work of the Lord in his recovery from cancer. He expressed his deepest appreciation for the prayers, cards, and letters.

Bishop Selbo introduced the Executive Council

The Rev. Dr. Bassam Abdallah	The Rev. Theresa Jacobson
Lynn Kickingbird	Scott Kramer
The Rev. Carl Rasmussen	Jerry Roehr
The Rev. Mark Werner	Joel Williams
Mike Johnson, Treasurer	

Introduction of NALS Board of Regents, The Rev. Dr. Eric Waters, Chairperson

The Rev. Dr. Eric Riesen, President of the North American Lutheran Seminary, introduced the faculty at our seminary and in conjunction with our seminary.

Dr. David Luy—Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, Co-host, Cardigan & Collar Podcast
Dr. Alexander Pierce—Assistant Professor of Historical Theology; General Editor, Word & Sacrament Magazine
The Rev. Dr. Amy Schifrin—President Emeritus; Associate Professor of Liturgy & Homiletics
The Rev. Dr. Nathan H. Yoder—Director of Lutheran Studies, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
The Rev. Dr. Maurice Lee—Adjunct Professor, Co-host, Cardigan & Collar Podcast
The Rev. Dr. Mark Mattes—Adjunct Professor

The Rev. Dr. Orrey McFarland—Adjunct Professor
The Rev. Dr. Andrew Weisner—Adjunct Professor
Dr. David Yeago—Adjunct Professor

Bishop Selbo invited Mission District/Region Deans to stand and be thanked for their service.

The Rev. W. Stevens Shipman	Atlantic Mission Region (4 Mission Districts)
The Rev. Rodney Lilley	Central Mission District
The Rev. Gregory Davidson	Northeast Mission District
The Rev. Dennis DiMauro	Southern Mission District
The Rev. Paula Murray	Western Mission District
The Rev. Charles Jackson	Canadian Mission District
The Rev. Erick Osness	Assistant to Canadian Mission District Dean
	Carolinas Mission Region (4 Mission Districts)
The Rev. Stephen Johnson	Catawba Valley Mission District
The Rev. Melinda Jones	South Carolina Mission District
The Rev. Steven King	Southern Piedmont Mission District
The Rev. Carl Haynes	Piedmont-East Mission District
The Rev. Taylor Stempniak	Central Pacific Mission District
The Rev. Thomas Christenson	Eastern South Dakota Mission District
The Rev. Dennis Beckmann	Great Plains Mission Region (3 Mission Districts)
The Rev. Fritz Brandenburg	Great Plains Mission District East
	Great Plains Mission District South
	Great Plains Mission District West
The Rev. Jeff Cottingham	Great Rivers Mission District
The Rev. Carlin Ours	Heartland Mission District
The Rev. Doug Gast	Iowa Mission District
The Rev. Christopher Staley	Michigan Mission District
The Rev. Jess Abbott (Interim)	Mid-Northeast Mission District
The Rev. Nila Cogan	Mid-South Mission District
The Rev. Scott Ness	Minkota Mission District
The Rev. Steve Bliss	Northwest Mission District
The Rev. Jody Becker (Co-Dean)	Northwest Mission District
The Rev. Ian Wolfe (Co-Dean)	Ohio Mission Region (5 Mission Districts)
	North West Ohio Mission District
The Rev. Hilbert (Bert) Schultz	North Central Ohio Mission District
The Rev. Katherine Pennington	North East Ohio Mission District
The Rev. Michael Koch	Southeastern Ohio Mission District
The Rev. Thomas Jacobson	Southwest Ohio Mission District
The Rev. Mark Daniels	Rocky Mountain Mission District
The Rev. Ken Hohag	Sonshine Mission District of Florida
The Rev. Alan Peacock	Southwest Pacific Mission District
The Rev. Randy Ouimette	Texas Mission Region (3 Mission Districts)
	North Texas Mission District
The Rev. Kris Brower	Southeast Texas Mission District
The Rev. Jared Stillions	

The Rev. Ralph Reitmeyer	Southwest Texas Mission District
The Rev. David Baer	Western Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming Mission District
The Rev. Mark Knappe (Co-Dean)	Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Mission District
The Rev. Tom Reiff (Co-Dean)	Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Mission District

Introduction of Mission Partners

Introduction of Interim Ministry Coordinators, Pastor Keith Less and Pastor Marty Ramey

Introduction of Ecumenical and Inter-Lutheran Guests

The Rt. Rev. Msafiri Joseph Mbilu—Bishop of North East Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania
 Robert Kitundu—Secretary General, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania
 The Rev. Dr Yonas Yigezu Dibisa—President, Ethiopian Evangelical Lutheran Church Mekane Yesus
 The Rev. Dr. Lalissa Daniel Gemechis—Director, Department of Mission & Theology, Ethiopian Evangelical Lutheran Church Mekane Yesus
 The Rev. Dr. Bruk Asale—President, Mekane Yesus Seminary, Ethiopian Evangelical Lutheran Church Mekane
 Wondmagegn Udessa—Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Ethiopian Evangelical Lutheran Church Mekane
 The Rev. Dr. Purevdjorj Jamsran—President, Mongolian Evangelical Lutheran Church
 The Rev. Dr. Benarji Duggi—Sr. Pastor, Epiphania Lutheran Church, Director, Lutheran School of Theology in India
 Jarle Skullerud—Synod Chair, The Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Norway
 The Rev. Martin Fromm—Church Coalition for the Bible and Confession, Pastor, of the Evangelical Lutheran parish of Rudenhausen, Germany
 The Rev. Andreas Spaath—Chair, Church Coalition for the Bible and Confession, Vice-president of the International Christian Network, Germany
 Dr. Gerald Mann—Church Coalition for the Bible and Confession, Germany
 The Rev. Julie Smith—Coordinator of Districts and Fellowships, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ
 The Rev. Charles Jackson—World Mission Prayer League, Canada
 The Rev. Nijhar Minz-Ekka & The Rev. Jhakmak Ekka—World Mission Prayer League
 Hans Arne Sanna—International Leader, Norwegian Lutheran Mission
 Lamessa Endalew—Regional Director, Norwegian Lutheran Mission East Africa and Ethiopia
 Soren Skovgaard Sorenson—Secretary General, Danish Lutheran Mission
 The Rev. Dr. Jukka Kaariainen—Executive Director, Finnish Lutheran Overseas Mission
 The Rev. Dr. Khamdeng Kounthapanya—Bishop of the Lao Evangelical Church
 The Most Rev. Dr. Ray R. Sutton—Presiding Bishop of the Reformed Episcopal Church
 The Rev. Dr. Scott Jones—Bishop, Global Methodist Church

The Rev. Dr. Joel Lehenbauer—Executive Director of Commission on Theology, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The Rev. Dr. Walter F. Kedjierski—Executive Director of the Secretariat of Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Pastor Hugh Brewer offered the report of the Nominating Committee for this year. The names and biographical information have been distributed in the NALC Newsletter and at *Lutheranweek.com*.

Bishop Selbo introduced the volunteers serving on the 2024 nominating Committee. They are the Rev. Dawn Rister, Chairperson, the Rev. Johnathan Aicken, the Rev. Dan Mershon, the Rev. Jack Richards, and Mrs. Becky Seifert. The convocation confirmed their appointment by unanimous consent.

At this point Bishop Selbo relinquished the chair to the General Secretary, The Rev. Dr. Amy Little. She outlined what was needed from any nominees for the office of bishop. Pastor Amy Little asked for nominations from the floor. There being no nominations from the floor, Pastor Little declared the nominations closed. She reminded the delegates that any questions for the two candidates for bishop must be submitted by 6:10 p.m. Pastor Little returned the chair to Bishop Selbo.

The bishop's written report was included in the Lutheran week materials. Bishop Selbo expanded on his report highlighting the four Core Values of the NALC. He is encouraged by the ministries of our congregations throughout the NALC. The bishop highlighted the discipleship materials available as a tool to use in being open in sharing our faith to the people in our communities. He highlighted the steady growth over the past year of congregations coming to the NALC. There are 41 full-time open pulpits with 37 pastors seeking new calls. He called upon congregations in our respective mission districts to aid in offering pulpit supply for smaller congregations as they struggle to call pastors.

Bishop Selbo addressed the staffing of the NALC International Missions office with the Rev. Gemechis Buba. Pastor Buba shared with Bishop Selbo that he has been noticing the call of the Holy Spirit to work more directly in International Missions. This led to Pastor Buba and his family to live in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for a six-month trial in the first half of 2023. Following that time, the Holy Spirit confirmed this calling. In September his position will be reduced to half-time. This will allow him to be more involved in the international ministry.

The convocation was in recess from 4:10 until 4:30 p.m.

On Fire for Mission Focus: Congregational Life

Bible Study: Dr. David Luy—Presentation & Discussion

Pastor Mac De Waal opened this Bible study with prayer. Dr. David Luy led the convocation in a Bible study. Following the Bible study, Pastors Little and Pastor Wendel led the next segment of the Mission Focus on congregational life, particularly being a healthy church in mission. Questions were given to delegates and visitors at each table for discussion.

Bishop Selbo called Pastor Teresa Peters to the podium. Pastor Peters shared numerous resources. She highlighted the Faith Formation Festivals. She highlighted the Holy Families work produced by Sola Publishing. The Carolinas Mission District has a Solid Rock Day Camp that travels to different areas. Online Confirmation Classes are being offered online by Pastor Mark Braaten. The NALC Young Adult Gathering sponsored by the Canadian Mission District is going to be offered. The Continental Youth Gathering is going to be held July 1-4, 2024, under the theme *We belong: "I know my own and my own know me"*. This will be a time for young people (12-18) to connect with other young individuals their own age. More information is coming. All the information will be posted in October 2023. Space will be limited to 500 people. Registrations will be first come, first serve.

At 6:15 p.m. the bishop declared the convocation to be in recess. Mission Districts/Regions met throughout the evening in various locations.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023

Bishop Selbo called us back from recess. Pastor Little reported that as of 8:00 a.m. we have 225 lay delegates and 245 clergy delegates present.

Pastor Mac De Waal, chaplain for the convocation read from Philippians and led the delegates in prayer.

On Fire for Mission Focus: Domestic Mission in the NALC

Dr. David Luy led the second Bible Study.

Pastors Brad Hales and David Keener led the next aspect of "On Fire for Mission: Domestic Mission in the NALC."

Bishop Selbo invited Verlyn Hahn, Luke Hahn, and Connor Hurley to present their report on Lutheran Benefits Plan. Mr. Luke Hahn focuses on the Benefit strategies for us. The health plan is the same carrier from 2020. It is a benefit rich program. The coverage does not provide for abortion. There is a health care "blue book" equivalent which highlights differences in cost among providers. Mr. Hurley next spoke of the Lutheran Benefits plan. He highlighted the section 107 provisions for ministers of the Gospel, which allows for pre-tax contributions that may be distributed for qualified housing expenses. Tax rates will go up in 2025 and they are prepared to help individuals prepare for that change. He highlighted endowment opportunities that are available at low cost.

Bishop Selbo declared the convocation to be in recess at 10:15 a.m.

Bishop Selbo called the convocation back to order at 10:47 a.m. for the continuation of Session III of the convocation.

The following clergy were recognized for their milestone anniversaries.

Recognitions of Ordination Anniversaries

20 years

The Rev. Matthew D. Bahnfelth
The Rev. R. Dean Eatman
The Rev. Leonard Gilley
The Rev. Bruce A. Kramer
The Rev. Patricia A. Morlock
The Rev. Troy A. Mulvaine
The Rev. Heidi Waltraut Punt
The Rev. Kenneth W. Reed Jr.

25 years

The Rev. Robert Vernon Alle
The Rev. Gaylon G. Botten
The Rev. Bradley Everett
The Rev. Aaron C. Frey
The Rev. David Klappenbach
The Rev. John David Miller
The Rev. Jon M. Paquette
The Rev. Julie Lynn Parsell
The Rev. Clint Pluenneke
The Rev. Dieter W. Punt
The Rev. Martha Ramey
The Rev. Charles N. Weaver
The Rev. Mark A. Werner

30 years

The Rev. Craig K. Abee
The Rev. Aaron D. Albrecht
The Rev. Michael D. Copeland
The Rev. Steven B. Counts
The Rev. Jose A. Galvez
The Rev. Seth J. Jersild
The Rev. Karl Johnsen
The Rev. Jeffrey Milsten
The Rev. Jeffrey Todd Nellerroe
The Rev. Diane Ruth Odermann
The Rev. H. Ray Ramsburg
The Rev. Dennis G. Reich
The Rev. Jack L. Shannon
The Rev. David I. Sorensen

35 years

The Rev. Jesse J. Abbott
The Rev. Joel Jay Berthelsen
The Rev. Kent Thomas Groethe
The Rev. Mark A. Hoffman
The Rev. Jimalee Jones
The Rev. Tamara J. K. Keen
The Rev. Mark W. Knappe
The Rev. Lauren R. Ley
The Rev. John A. Mohan
The Rev. Timothy Nappe
The Rev. Larry A. Nichols Jr.
The Rev. David Priem
The Rev. N. Craig Werling
The Rev. Janine Gale Rew-Werling
The Rev. Daniel M. Schaefer Sr.
The Rev. Terrill Galen Sorensen
The Rev. Sara Ruth Sorensen
The Rev. Gary A. Veit
The Rev. Robert Vitek

35 years continued:

The Rev. N. Craig Werling
The Rev. Frezil Westerlund

40 years

The Rev. Robert W. Carlson Jr.
The Rev. Robert Keith Deobald
The Rev. Kebede F. Dibaba

45 years

The Rev. Donald Roger Allman
The Rev. Timothy L. Anderson
The Rev. John F. Bradosky

The Rev. Mark C. Dill
The Rev. Derald H. Edwards
The Rev. Karl H. Faltin
The Rev. Mark Andrew Graham
The Rev. Melvin G. Harris
The Rev. David Bruce Hill
The Rev. Ronald A. Hoyum
The Rev. Robert A. Keplinger
The Rev. Craig J. Lanning
The Rev. Carsten Judd Ludder
The Rev. Kerry P. Maurer
The Rev. Gerald M. Merkouris
The Rev. Frederick W. Meuter III
The Rev. Martin Dennis Moore
The Rev. Steven John Nicolai
The Rev. Ronald J. Rasmussen
The Rev. David E. Schafer
The Rev. Stephen E. Seibel
The Rev. Donna Hacker Smith
The Rev. Andrew F. Weisner

50 years

The Rev. Donald R. Bachman Jr.
The Rev. Thomas W. Corbell
The Rev. Lawrence M. Guenzel
The Rev. John D. Hopper
The Rev. Michael E. Koch
The Rev. Ivan Philip Nordstrand Jr.
The Rev. Richard V. Pearson
The Rev. W. Stevens Shipman Jr.
The Rev. Kenneth A. Tubbesing
The Rev. Ronald A. Voss

60 years

The Rev. William H. Breen
The Rev. Donald L. Deck
The Rev. M. L. Jacobson
The Rev. Relph A. Kempiski

70 years

The Rev. Carlos Maestre
The Rev. Robert W. Pflueger

The Rev. Clyde Elliott
The Rev. Raymond Lee Hagan
The Rev. Ted Alan Hummel
The Rev. Timothy Earl Johnson
The Rev. William Odermann
The Rev. Robert Palan
The Rev. M. Henry Pawluk
The Rev. John H. G. Rasmussen
The Rev. Thomas E. Reiff
The Rev. John Robert Thompson
The Rev. Ronald R. Walter

55 years

The Rev. Larry Wayne Bost
The Rev. James Marvin Glesne
The Rev. John E. Jackson
The Rev. Edward C. Keefer Jr.
The Rev. Gerald Peter Kramer
The Rev. John Paul Lingle
The Rev. Richard G. Mahan
The Rev. Hans Scherner

65 years

The Rev. Eugene A. Lehrke

Bishop Selbo recognized those Military Chaplains and Personnel currently serving.

CPT. Wesley Teixeira-Alves—U.S. Army
LTC. Paul Hansen—U.S. Army
CPT. Chris Wendel—U.S. Army
LT. Paul Chapman—U.S. Navy
Lt. Luke Beaver—U.S. Army Chaplain Candidate

Recognition of Hospice Chaplains

The Rev. Allen Schoonover
The Rev. Carter Askren
The Rev. Mike Warfel
The Rev. Gregory Davidson
The Rev. Sarah Woodward
The Rev. Patricia Braunscheidel
The Rev. Richard Stoecker

Recognition of Hospital Chaplains

The Rev. Karen Jersild
The Rev. Daniel Bellinger
The Rev. Titus Ngebeh
The Rev. Shruti Kulkarni
The Rev. Jacob Taxis

Bishop Selbo called our Chaplain Endorser, The Rev. Dr. Jess Abbot. There are several individuals in specialized ministry. Chaplains go to places where most of us cannot. Chaplains have various certifications that are needed in different settings. The NALC is recognized by the United States Military Chaplains as of September 2022. We are also part of the Chaplain Alliance for Religious Freedom.

We have two guests from the Chief of Chaplains with us at their display table. They are Major Walter McCall and Staff Sergeant Antoine Campbell both U.S. Army.

Bishop recognized Brigadier General Victor Langford.

Recognition of Chaplains Serving in Other Contexts

The Rev. Ryan Henkel—Fire Dept. Chaplain
The Rev. William Hartfelder—Police Chaplain
The Rev. Christopher Thorson—Senior Living Chaplain
The Rev. Dr. Jess Abbott—Specialized Ministries and Military Endorsing Agent

Introduction of Ministry Candidates

Seminarians

Kyle Page	Luke Ratke	James Clapper
Amanuel Ayana	Monica Barman	Craig Wheaton
Daniel Thompson	Candice Carter	Paul Perry

Benjamin Johnson
James Price
Jackson Watts
Blaine Davis
John Popiak
Aaron Dawson
Quinn Silco
Ken Campbell
Alan Gates
Rick Laursen
Russel Watkins
Pam Grandmaison
Rebecca Foster

Michelle Kouse
Keith Deak
Paul Frederickson
Ramiel Shamwel
Ethan Zimmerman
Dale Stanley
Khrystle Sullivan
John Dinkins
Kent Haley
Bill Morris
Jim Westervelt
Heath Brady

Cody Cooper
Scott Stine
Molly King
Cody Carpenter
Megan Shaffer
Luke Beaver
Yeshiwas Amsalu
Bert Eldridge
John Hazzard
Paul Perry

The following individuals have been approved for Ordination.

Ben Blobaum
Justin Baker
Terese Whitten
Pal Pusztai
Rick Robers
Ben Ames-McCrimmon
Jon Gowin

Introduction of Newly Ordained.

2021 Ordinations
The Rev. Alliyah Christine Greaver
The Rev. Teresa Elizabeth Peters

2022 Ordinations

The Rev. Kansa Y. Deresa
The Rev. Philip A. Sandi
The Rev. Hailey A. Halmstad
The Rev. George Jacob Schrader
The Rev. Ricky Verne Richards
The Rev. Shruti Kulkarni
The Rev. Joseph W. Hill
The Rev. Robert M. Syner
The Rev. Adam W. Guthmiller
The Rev. Lara S. Bhasin

Bishop Selbo introduced clergy new to the NALC

2021
The Rev. Jeffrey J. Blain
The Rev. Aaron C. Frey
The Rev. Dennis H. Meyer

2022
The Rev. Patrick L. Hall
The Rev. Alan L. Baglien
The Rev. Mark D. Booster

The Rev. Rodney A. Juell
The Rev. Michael M. Knauff
The Rev. Emil H. Klatt III

The Rev. Phil Anderas
The Rev. Edward C. Keefer Jr.
The Rev. Patrick K. Welton
The Rev. Lester Henry Cutter Jr.
The Rev. Larry L. Jerke

New to the NALC 2022 Con't.

The Rev. Michael D. Copeland
The Rev. Tsegayesus Hurisa Hunde
The Rev. Eric. M. Miletti
The Rev. Sang-Guen (Samuel) Kim
The Rev. Philip H. Harkey
The Rev. Miles Phillip Appling
The Rev. Rodney L. Ford
The Rev. David K. Zandt
The Rev. Cody J. Mills
The Rev. Charles W. Mann
The Rev. Ric D. Smith
The Rev. Toby R. Holland
The Rev. Judson F. Merrell

2023

The Rev. Amy J. Godshall-Miller
The Rev. John David Miller
The Rev. Christian B. Meier
The Rev. Christopher L. Raiford
The Rev. Michael A. Pickhardt
The Rev. Keith L. Forni
The Rev. Jeremy Winter
The Rev. Sarah A. Stenson
The Rev. Benjamin Yip Ng
The Rev. Philip M. Daniels
The Rev. Matthew J. Kolden
The Rev. James Ira Bartlett
The Rev. Kristine M. Dohrmann
The Rev. W. Ralph Heller Jr.
The Rev. Mark R. Johnson
The Rev. Thomas J. Brashears

Bishop Selbo read the names of the Clergy Who Have Died in the Lord since the 2021 NALC Mission Convocation.

2021

The Rev. H. Brett Collins
The Rev. James E. Hanson
The Rev. Barry S. Kendall
The Rev. Elizabeth Joy Toler

2022

The Rev. Robert D. Kitchen
The Rev. William E. Flath
The Rev. David L. Steffenson
The Rev. William Haggis
The Rev. Paul V. Martinson
The Rev. Stephen Rhodes
The Rev. Dr. J. Larry Yoder
The Rev. John P. Kline
The Rev. Dr. James Arne Nestigen

2023

The Rev. Allen K. Griep
The Rev. Ray Rosenthal
The Rev. Ronald A. Rasmus

Chaplain Mac De Waal offered prayer for our beloved clergy who passed away.

Bishop Selbo recognized the following Congregational Anniversaries

100 Years

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Iron Mountain, MI
St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jefferson, WI
Unity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Des Moines, IA

125 Years

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Idaho Falls, ID
Peace Lutheran Church, Gibsonville, NC

150 Years

First Lutheran Church, Kirkland, IL
Leaf Mountain Lutheran Church, Clitherall, MN
Trinity Lutheran Church, Joppa, MD

175 Years

First Lutheran Church, Troy, OH
Lebanon Lutheran Church, Lebanon Church, VA
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oregon, IL

225 Years

First Lutheran Church, Washington, PA
Yeager Memorial Lutheran Church, Bedford, PA

Bishop Selbo introduced the 46 Congregations New to the NALC since the 2021 Mission Convocation

2021

Bardo Lutheran Church, Tofield, AB
St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, Brenham, TX
Ascension Lutheran Church, Fond Du Lac, WI
Epiphany Lutheran Church, Pensicola, FL
St. Mark Lutheran Church, Atlanta, GA
First St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Burlington, CO
St. John Lutheran Church of Lindenau, Cuero, TX
St. John Lutheran Church of Westhoff, Westhoff, TX
St. Michael's Church, Hamburg, PA
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Shelbyville, IL
Trinity Lutheran Church, Titusville, FL

2022

English Evangelical Lutheran Church, Zelienople, PA
Joy Lutheran Church, Rockwall, TX
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Newcomerstown, OH
St. Paul Lutheran Church, York, PA
Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, LaPorte, IN

St. John's Lutheran Church, Creston, IL
West County Lutheran Church, Wildwood, MO
Joy Lutheran Church, Escanaba, MI
Trinity Lutheran Church, Hermiston, OR
Abundant Grace Lutheran Church, West Chester, OH
Zion Lutheran Church, Scotland, SD
Trinity Lutheran Church, Great Bend, KS
St. John Lutheran Church, Sunman, IN
Community of Faith Church, West Linn, OR
St. James Lutheran Church, Muncy, PA
Reformation Church, Middlebury, IN
St. John's Lutheran Church, Le Mars, IA
Desert Springs Lutheran Church, Truth Or Consequences, NM
Hillside Community Lutheran Church, Spring Hill, KS
Greenford Lutheran Church, Greenford, OH
Peace Lutheran Church, Sullivan, MO
Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Somerset, PA

2023

Abundant Life Lutheran Church, Calgary, AB
Bald Hill Lutheran Church, Bedford, PA
St. James Lutheran Church, Bedford, PA
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Bedford, PA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jonestown, PA
Christ Lutheran Church, Dubois, PA
Lutheran Church of the Valley, Harrisonburg, VA
St. John's Lutheran Church, Ambridge, PA
Edmonton Good Shepherd Chinese Lutheran Church, Edmonton, AB
Midway Lutheran Church, Brookings, SD
First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Gonzales, TX
Christ Lutheran Church, Santa Clarita, CA
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Niceville, FL

Bishop Selbo invited panelists to come forward for conversation on the 2020 Vision. The NALC was formed in 2010. The focus has been on being a movement as opposed to an institution. Bishop Paull Spring was our first bishop. The four core values would be pillars around our shared life. In 2011 Bishop John Bradosky, focused us clearly on making disciples of Jesus. We grew from 200 congregations to just over 400 congregations.

In 2020, Bishop Selbo introduced the 2020 Vision. It was adopted by 89 percent equating to 383 yes votes. We are a bottom-up structure with 490 congregations, 36 M.D. Deans, five area assistants to the bishop, Executive Council, and the Executive Staff.

We have commitments of just over 2 million dollars for the Today, Tomorrow and Forever initiative toward a Five Million Dollar goal.

Fifty-seven congregations have joined the NALC since 2020. There was a 42.5 percent rate increase over the previous 4 years from 2016 through 2019. Integral to the growth was the five area assistants to the bishop. With the addition of a call process coordinator, Pastor Wendel has been able to lead 35 Fresh Eyes for Mission Summits. Pastors Jeff Morlock and Shelly Schultz have joined the staff, and their work is bearing fruit for both the seminary and the call process respectfully.

We have increased global workers from 9 to 17 from 2022 to 2023.

The 2020 vision is organized under four key headings: Grow, Serve, Renew and Fulfill.

The panelists shared how they introduced the Today, Tomorrow, and Forever initiative in their congregations and what they have seen from that introduction.

Wally and Chris Seibel—Interim Pastors from Joy Lutheran Church, Rockwell, TX
Judy Rademaker, Stewardship Team Member—Immanuel Lutheran Church of Flatville, Thomasboro, IL
Ken Hohag—Pastor and NALC Dean, Black Forest Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO.
Scott Ness—Pastor and NALC Dean, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Fayetteville, GA.

Bishop Selbo invited Pastor Dawn Rister forward to speak regarding the NALS. Two quilts were held up for the convocation to see. The drawing for the quilts will be held on Friday.

Pastor Mac De Waal led us in prayer just before our lunch recess.
The convocation was in recess from 12:00 until 1:30 p.m.

Bishop called us back into session at 1:30 p.m.

Pastor Riesen, president of the North American Lutheran Seminary, offered a verbal report. We are called to participate in the work of God, some of that work is in forming pastors. The hub and spokes model of seminary education is bearing fruit. All our students have the imprint of the Seminary in their education, regardless of which spoke they may attend. The NALS exists to support the congregations of the NALC. There is strong cooperation with the Mekane Yesus Evangelical Lutheran Seminary. The Core Values of the NALC are intentionally built into the curriculum. Our pastors are being trained not to function as lone rangers. The Seminary, thanks to the ongoing support of NALC individuals and congregations, can fully financially support students without their incurring debt.

Dr. Luy explained the Seminary Network that functions under a hub and spokes model. There were two guiding criteria:

1. The need to ensure that future NALC pastors receive a seminary education that is particular to the theology, ethos, and core values of the North American Lutheran Church.
2. The need for seminary education to be as accessible as possible.

Pastor Jeff Morlock, director of vocational discernment shared he has the joy of being in contact with individuals at the very beginning steps of those exploring a call to ordained ministry. He reminded the convocation to lift up those individuals in our congregations who may have the gifts of serving as a pastor. He is working with 130 people. There are 47 students in the seminary network.

In the past year, 39 students have been in the M.Div. track. He is working on developing Student Recruitment Ambassadors.

Dr. Alex Pierce shared some initiatives that are underway. The first issue of Word and Sacrament magazine has been published and sent out. He asked for themes that we'd be interested in learning more about that can be addressed in future issues of the magazine. There is a forthcoming podcast called Cardigan and Collar, with The Rev. Dr. Maurice Lee and Dr. David Luy. The first theme will be on catechesis. At Trinity School for Ministry, there is a development of advanced degrees—Doctorate of Ministry and Masters of Sacred Theology. The hope is to bring the Core Values of the NALC to these core programs.

The Rev. Dr. Nathan Yoder shared multiple ways clergy and laity can participate and learn at the NALS Network.

Bishop Selbo expressed his thanks and appreciation to the seminary.

Bishop Selbo spoke of the confessional witness of the Rev. Dr. Mary Havens at as director of Lutheran Studies at Gordon Conwell. Members of the Board of Directors at Gordon Conwell were recognized. The Rev. Dr. Nathan Yoder will succeed Dr. Havens in this role. Bishop Selbo also thanked the delegates from St. Martins for sharing Pastor Yoder with the seminary.

Pastor Amy Little reported that as of 1:25 p.m. there were 222 lay delegates and 245 clergy delegates making 467 votes eligible representing 218 congregations or 45%.

Bishop Selbo invited Pastor Carl Johnson to address an issue related to Rule number 5 of the Rules of Procedure. Pastor Johnson noted that the amendment to point number five of the Rules of Procedure is in conflict with the NALC Constitution, thus making the amendment out of order.

Bishop Selbo turned the chair over to the General Secretary, The Rev. Dr. Amy Little. The first ballot will include vote on four-year terms for the Bishop, Executive Council (clergy and lay) and the Court of Adjudication.

The Rev. Deacon Andrew Ames Fuller, director of communications, was invited forward to explain how we vote. There were two practice questions for the delegates to vote upon.

General Secretary Little invited Pastor David Wendel to come forward to offer his 15-minute devotion on the Scripture themes for the convocation.

General Secretary Little invited Pastor Selbo to come forward to offer his 15-minute devotion on the passage from Acts 1:8.

General Secretary Little read questions submitted by the convocation and collated by the Committee for Reference and Counsel.

General Secretary called on Deacon Ames Fuller to do a quick refresher on the voting technology.

The First Ballot for Bishop will be:

1. The Rev. Dan Selbo
2. The Rev. David Wendel

The First Ballot for Executive Council Clergy 4-year term will be:

1. The Rev. John Conrad
2. The Rev. Dr. Scott Ness
3. The Rev. Dieter W. Punt
4. The Rev. Dr. Douglas Schoelles
5. The Rev. Pamela Thorson

The First Ballot for Executive Council, lay person will be:

1. Mrs. Julia Hartfelder
2. Mr. Scott Kramer

The First Ballot for the Court of Adjudication will be:

1. The Rev. Thomas M. Brodbeck
2. The Rev. Leslie Haines
3. The Rev. Ryan Henkel

After the voting closed, General Secretary Amy Little returned the chair to Bishop Selbo.

Bishop Selbo called upon Pastor David Wendel, Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenism and Worship to introduce our Ecumenical and Inter-Lutheran Guests who brought greetings to the assembled delegates and visitors.

Those bringing greetings to the NALC Convocation were:

The Rev. Dr. Walter F. Kedjierski, USCCB
Bishop Ray Sutton, Anglican Church in North America
The Rev. Dr. Joel Lehenbauer, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Bishop Selbo relinquished the chair to General Secretary Amy Little.

General Secretary Little reported:

For Executive Council (Clergy)
Number of ballots cast: 444
Needed to elect: 223

The Rev. John Conrad – 71
The Rev. Dr. Scott Ness – 111
The Rev. Dieter W. Punt – 115
The Rev. Dr. Douglas Schoelles – 61
The Rev. Pamela Thorson – 86

There being no election, those on the next ballot will be The Rev. John Conrad, The Rev. Scott Ness, The Rev. Deiter W. Punt, and The Rev. Pamela Thorson.

General Secretary Little reported:

For Executive Council (Laity)

Number of ballots cast: 444

Needed to elect: 223

Mrs. Julia Hartfelder – 227

Mr. Scott Kramer – 217

General Secretary Amy Little declares Julia Hartfelder elected to a four-year term on Executive Council, lay person.

General Secretary Little reported:

For Court of Adjudication

Number of ballots cast: 447

The two individuals receiving the most votes are elected.

The Rev. Thomas M. Brodbeck – 287

The Rev. Leslie Haines – 288

The Rev. Ryan Henkel – 314

General Secretary Amy Little declares The Rev. Ryan Henkel and The Rev. Leslie Haines elected to the Court of Adjudication.

General Secretary Amy Little announced the results for the election of bishop.

For Bishop

Number of ballots cast: 445

Needed to elect: 223

The Rev. Dr. Daniel Selbo – 344

The Rev. Dr. David M. Wendel – 101

General Secretary Amy Little declares the Rev. Dr. Daniel Selbo elected Bishop of the NALC for a four-year term. The delegates and visitors rise in acclamation of this vote.

General Secretary Amy Little returns the chair to Bishop Selbo. Bishop Selbo read from Colossians 1.

Pastor Sarah Stenson gave a report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel. There was nothing to report.

The convocation recessed at 4:50 p.m.

The following Workshops were offered from 4:50–5:30 p.m.

- Looking Through the Global Mission Window—The Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba
- Sexual Slavery—Call It What It Is—The Rev. Dona Johnson
- NALC Life-To-Life Discipleship—The Rev. David Keener
- How You Can Become Part of the 2020 Vision—Mike Schmidt & Makenzie Freshly (Cramer & Associates)
- The NALS and Discerning a Call to Ministry—The Rev. Dr. Eric Riesen
- Effective Parish Communication—Session 1: Principles and Theories—The Rev. Dcn. Andrew S. Ames Fuller
- Youth and Family Ministry in the NALC—The Rev. Teresa Peters & Melanie Corn
- Every Congregation Renewing: Real Life Processes & Strategies For Strengthening & Growing Congregations—The Rev. Brad Hales & The Rev. Dr. David Wendel

The following workshops were offered from 5:30–6:30 p.m.

- Legacy Giving: An Expanded View of Giving—The Rev. Dona Johnson & Michael Johnson
- How Congregations Can Address the Range of Life Issues—The Rev. Mark Chavez
- NALC Life-To-Life Discipleship—The Rev. David Keener
- How You Can Become Part of the 2020 Vision—Mike Schmidt & Makenzie Freshly (Cramer & Associates)
- The NALS and Discerning a Call to Ministry—The Rev. Dr. Eric Riesen
- Effective Parish Communication—Session 2: Applying Principles and Solving Real-Life Problems—The Rev. Dcn. Andrew S. Ames Fuller
- Youth And Family Ministry in the NALC—The Rev. Teresa Peters & Melanie Corn
- Every Congregation Renewing: Real Life Processes & Strategies For Strengthening & Growing Congregations—The Rev. Brad Hales & The Rev. Dr. David Wendel

A banquet was held for registered delegates and visitors. The banquet included video tributes to The Rev. Dr. J. Larry Yoder and The Rev. Dr. James Arne Nestigen and a recognition of years of service for Mrs. Anne Gleason and Mrs. Becky Seifert. Mr. Randy Stubbs, along with his daughters Megan Ndale and Marissa Stubbs, delivered a presentation on the music ministry he leads in Tanzania.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2023

On Friday, August 11, a breakfast for the Mission District/Region Deans was held.

Bishop called us back in session at 8:05 a.m. He thanked Randy, Megan and Marissa for their presentation last evening. The bishop turned our attention to the **On Fire for Mission Focus: International Mission.**

Pastor Buba called forth global workers for worship and commissioning. Randy Stubbs in Tanzania, the Rev. Sam Chim in Cambodia, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Thorstad to Laos, the Rev. Dr. Slavomir Slavik in Slovakia, the Rev. Aleksandr Gross in Ukraine, and Dagaga Gamechu in Kenya.

Bishop Selbo called on Pastor David Wendel to introduce our next ecumenical guest to bring greetings. Representing the Evangelical Lutheran Church Mekane Yesus was the Rev. Dr. Yonas Yigezu Dibisa, President.

Bishop Selbo declared a 15-minute recess.
We returned from recess at 10:40.

Bishop Selbo called on the delegates and visitors to extended thanks and appreciation to the hotel staff for their work.

General Secretary Little reported that as of 8:00 a.m. there were 222 lay delegates and 245 clergy delegates registered and present. There are 467 eligible voters.

Bishop Selbo called on the Rev. Dcn. Andrew Ames Fuller to refresh us on voting in preparation for our second ballot. As he was coming forward, Bishop Selbo extended thanks to Jennifer Gold for her service on the Court of Adjudication and to Pastor Bassam Abdallah and Scott Kramer for their service on the Executive Council.

For Executive Council (Clergy) the remaining nominees are:

The Rev. John Conrad
The Rev. Dr. Scott Ness
The Rev. Dieter W. Punt
The Rev. Pamela Thorson

Following the second vote, Mr. Mike Johnson came forward to offer the Treasurer's Report. He thanked the congregations and donors. 2022 resulted in a net Income of \$870,281. Money from bequests 659,908 will become seed money for the NALC Foundation.

As of December 31, 2022, we have total reserves of \$4,624,576. From that, \$1,153,070 is unrestricted/undesignated reserves. The report is accepted as presented.

Bishop Selbo gave the report of Second Ballot.

For Executive Council (Clergy)

Number of ballots cast: 344

Needed to elect: 163

The Rev. John Conrad – 52

The Rev. Dr. Scott Ness – 107

The Rev. Dieter W. Punt – 100

The Rev. Pamela Thorson – 75

There being no election, Bishop Selbo declared that the names remaining for the third ballot will include: The Rev. Scott Ness, The Rev. Dieter W. Punt, and The Rev. Pamela Thorson. Voting on the third ballot commenced.

After declaring the third ballot closed, Bishop Selbo called our attention back to the 2024 proposed budget. Mike Johnson offered an explanation of the budget. Faith and finances are inseparable. It is a statement of faith.

The Rev. Dr. Dennis DiMauro asked about the ratio from consulting expense compared to dollars raised. Mike responded that it was 10% which is the average for such consulting work.

The Rev. Douglas Schoelles moved that we remove Lutheran World Relief from the 2024 proposed Budget. There was a second. This would be the removal of \$12,000 from the total budget. Speakers were recognized in favor and in opposition to the motion.

Pastor Punt called the question. It takes two-thirds to end the debate. Bishop asked for a voice vote. The motion carries.

We moved immediately to vote on the motion. The results of the vote to remove Lutheran World Relief from the 2024 proposed budget were:

Yes – 181

No – 150

The motion passed.

The Rev. Heidi Punt moved that the dollars from LWR be reallocated to another agency as determined by the Executive Council. There was a second. The results of the vote to reallocate the \$12,000 from Lutheran World Relief to another agency as determined by the Executive Council was:

Yes – 297

No – 33

The motion passed.

We moved to a vote on the proposed 2024 budget as amended. The results of the vote were:

Yes – 302

No – 18

The 2024 budget as amended was adopted.

Treasurer Johnson gave a report on the Today, Tomorrow and Forever initiative. Total income after allocations was \$151,608.

The bishop also gave Treasurer Johnson an opportunity to highlight the NALC Foundation.

Bishop Selbo reported the results of the third ballot
For Executive Council (Clergy)

Number of ballots cast: 337

Needed to elect: 169

The Rev. Dr. Scott Ness – 151

The Rev. Dieter W. Punt – 112

The Rev. Pamela Thorson – 74

There being no election the remaining names for the fourth ballot will be: The Rev. Scott Ness and The Rev. Dieter W. Punt. Before the fourth ballot was cast, Chaplain Mac De Waal led the delegates in prayer.

Bishop Selbo reported the results of the fourth ballot.
For Executive Council (Clergy)

Number of ballots cast: 310

Needed to elect: 159

The Rev. Dr. Scott Ness – 181

The Rev. Dieter W. Punt – 129

The bishop declares the Rev. Dr. Scott Ness elected to the Executive Council for a four-year term.

Without objection, the agenda was amended to include a vote to confirm the election of Steve Mumart to the board of the Canada Section. Bishop Selbo called for a voice vote. The convocation unanimously confirmed the election of Steve Mumart to the board of the Canada Section.

Pastor David Wendel came forward to introduce Bishop Scott Jones of the new Global Methodist Church to bring greetings to the delegates and visitors.

Bishop Selbo declared us to be in recess at 12:18 p.m.

Bishop Selbo called us back to session at 1:30 p.m.

Pastor Carl Johnson offered the report of NALC Living and Giving Stewardship Task Force on behalf of Donna Johnson who serves as the chair. The Living and Giving Stewardship Ministry team thank each of you for your generous gifts of time, talents, treasure, and testimony!

Bishop Selbo invited the Rev. Scott Licht of National Director of Lutherans for Life and the Rev. Mark Chavez, Chair of the NALC Life Ministries. The NALC is the only Lutheran denomination that regularly gives a donation to Lutherans for Life. This is a pan-Lutheran group. Life is a Spiritual Matter.

Mrs. Peggy Jording, chair of the Women's Council of the Women of the NALC, came forward to present their report. Their purpose is to connect with women in the congregations of the NALC. Their website is *www.wnalc.org*.

Mrs. Mary Bates came forward to report on NALC Disaster Response. In April tornados hit several states. We were able to send five warehouses of supplies to the impacted areas.

They are building a volunteer training and retreat center in Caldwell, Ohio. Mary is asking for each Mission District to have a coordinator who can assist in the work that she leads.

Bishop Selbo invited Pastor Gemechis Buba to come forward to address the convocation. The Lord placed upon him the call and desire to do leadership training in Ethiopia. This training led to the development of Leadstar. Since the development, 27,000 leaders have been trained. These leaders serve in a variety of ways throughout Ethiopia.

Pastor Dawn Rister and Pastor Patti Morlock came forward. \$5,450 has been raised this week for the NALS. The winners of the quilt and hanging are Bill Roser of Lavernia, Texas, and Ariel Wicker, from the communications team.

Pastor Jeff Morlock came forward. There was a drawing for prizes.

The following upcoming events were announced.

Jan. 16-18, 2024 is the Pastor's Conference in Orlando, Florida

April 9-11, 2024 is the Canadian Rockies in Canmore, Alberta, Canada.

May 5-11, 2024 is the NALC Young Adult Gathering in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

July 1-4, 2024 is the Continental Youth Gathering in Boerne, Texas

Aug. 9, 2024 is the Online Mission Convocation of the NALC.

Aug. 4-8, 2025 is Lutheran Week 2025 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The liturgy of Word and Sacrament, including installations and the rite of the closing of a convocation was held at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Mark A. Werner

Recording Secretary for the Executive Council