



MINUTES OF THE 2018 NALC ANNUAL CONVOCATION
“THE HOLY SPIRIT: CALLING, GATHERING, ENLIGHTENING, SANCTIFYING”
ACTS 1:8
AUGUST 16-18, 2018 | CROWNE PLAZA DENVER AIRPORT | DENVER, CO

Thursday, August 16, 2018

1:30pm

Festival Eucharist

The 2018 Convocation was called to worship by Rev. Ken Hohag. Rev. John Bradosky, NALC Bishop, presided over the service and the Rt. Rev. Charles Masters, ACNA Diocesan Bishop preached.

3:00pm

Call to Order

Rev. Bradosky, called the Convocation to order and declared a ten-minute recess.

3:20pm

Rev. Bradosky called the Convocation back into session.

Adoption of Rules of Procedure

Rev. Melinda Jones, NALC Executive Council Secretary, made a motion that the Rules of Procedure be adopted for the Convocation. *Seconded. Adopted.*

Approval of Agenda

Rev. Jones made a motion that the agenda provided in the Convocation booklet be accepted. *Seconded. Adopted.*

Introduction of Lutheran Week Planning Team

Rev. Mark Chavez, NALC General Secretary, introduced Lutheran Week Planning Team members: Rev. Will Hartfelder, chair; Long Range Planning Team Subcommittee Members, Jacquiel Torro, Rev. Mark Graham, Rev. Mark Chavez, Anne Gleason, Becky Seifert; Rev. Tony Ede, Technology Coordinator; Rev. Ken Hohag, Chaplain; Miles Olsen and Ed Broestl, Faith Community – Longmont CO; Linda Brower, Chair of WNALC; Rev. Ron Hoyum, Chair of Braaten-Benne Lectures; Gary and Laurie Pecuch, Youth Symposium Coordinators; Rev. Dr. Nathan Yoder, Young Theologians Coordinator; and NALC Staff members, Andrew Fuller, Anne Gleason, Becky Seifert, Jenny Brockman and Maddie Benson, Recording Secretary. Rev. Bradosky thanked Rev. Chavez for coordinating the team.

Introduction of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Rev. Chavez introduced committee members: Wayne Knerr (lay), Rev. Kevin Scott (clergy), Rev. Marty Ramey (Court of Adjudication), Rev. Carl Rasmussen (Executive Council). He announced that resolutions must be given to the committee by 6:30pm that evening.

Introduction of Staff

Rev. Bradosky introduced the NALC staff.

Introduction of Deans

Rev. Bradosky introduced the deans. He announced the newly formed Southwest Texas Mission District, Dean Rev. Norm Sulaica.

Report of Nominating Committee

Marc Voigt, chair of the committee, presented the report. He introduced the committee, explained the nomination process and presented the slate of nominees. Nominees included:

Executive Council, clergy, four-year term (one to be elected)

Rev. Tim Johnson

Rev. Melinda Jones

Rev. Jim Palan

Executive Council, lay, four-year term (one to be elected)

Mr. Richard Jansak

Mr. Larry Shull

Court of Adjudication, four-year term (two to be elected)

Mr. James Gales

Rev. John Moffett

NALS Board of Regents, six-year term (three to be elected)

Rev. Wendy Berthelsen

Rev. Dennis Di Mauro

Rev. Phil Gagnon

Mr. Kevin Langholz

Rev. Jim Lehmann

Rev. Troy Mulvaine

Rev. David Phillips

Rev. Donna Smith

Rev. Norman Sulaica

Rev. Roger Weyersberg

NALC-Canada Section, four-year term (two to be elected on behalf of Canadian Mission District)

Mr. Ralph Wold

Rev. Rolf Bjornstad

Introduction of Executive Council

Rev. Bradosky introduced the Executive Council.

Statistical Report

Rev. Chavez announced the following registration numbers: 224 clergy delegates, 212 lay delegates, 151 visitors, total: 587.

First Ballot

Rev. Bradosky introduced Rev. Carl Johnson, Chair of Elections Committee. Rev. Carl Johnson invited the election committee to come forward. Rev. Ken Hohag prayed over the election.

Executive Council, clergy, four-year term

Ballots distributed and collected. Rev. Bradosky declared the ballot closed.

Executive Council, lay, four-year term

Ballots distributed and collected. Rev. Bradosky declared the ballot closed.

Rev. Johnson moved the election of Mr. James Gale and Rev. John Moffett to the Court of Adjudication for a four-year term.

Moved and seconded. Approved.

Rev. Johnson moved the election of Mr. Ralph Wold and Rev. Rolf Bjornstad to NALC-Canada Section Board.

Moved and seconded. Approved.

NALS Board of Regents, six-year term

Ballots distributed and collected. Rev. Bradosky declared the ballot closed.

Introduction of Director of Domestic Mission and Director of Communications

Rev. Brad Hales, NALC Director of Domestic Mission, explained how he will be focusing on congregational renewal and starting new congregations in his new role. Andrew Fuller, NALC Director of Communications, provided an overview of the importance of communications and future communications efforts in the NALC.

Approval of Nominating Committee

On behalf of the Executive Council, Rev. Melinda Jones requested the Convocation's confirmation and appointment of Mark Voigt, Erik Osness, Rev. Wendy Berthelsen, Rev. Richard Tomlinson and Rev. Hugh Brewer to the 2019 Nominating Committee. *Seconded. Approved.*

Introduction of Parliamentarian

Rev. Chavez introduced the parliamentarian, Rev. Jeffray Greene.

Report from Lutheran World Relief

Paul Marsh, LWR Philanthropic Advisor, brought a welcome from LWR and shared examples of how the NALC's partnership with LWR is changing lives around the world.

Report from Youth and Family Ministry

Gary Pecuch shared the story of how youth ministry influenced the lives of now NALC Global Workers, Stephen and Rachel. Gary and Laurie Pecuch encouraged the Convocation to read their written report in the Convocation booklet.

Bible Study: "The Holy Spirit: Calling, Gathering, Enlightening, and Sanctifying"

Rev. Brad Hales, NALC Director of Domestic Mission

Report from Lutheran Benefits Plan

Rev. Bradosky introduced Verlyn Hahn, Hahn Financial Group, and his son, Luke Hahn. Verlyn introduced the review committee for Lutheran Benefits: Ryan Schwarz, Rev. Paul Larson and Rev. Mark Chavez. Verlyn briefly reviewed the Lutheran Benefits report provided in the Convocation booklet.

Introduction of Ecumenical Guests

Rev. David Wendel, NALC Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry and Ecumenism, introduced the following ecumenical guests: Rev. Larry Vogel, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; Rev. Timothy Teuscher, Lutheran Church—Canada; Rt. Rev. Charles Masters, Anglican Church in North America; Rev. Julie Smith, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ; Dr. Rocky Piro, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Recognition of Ordination Anniversaries

Rev. Bradosky recognized clergy celebrating anniversaries of their ordination.

Recognition of Military Chaplains, Personnel & their Families

Rev. Lenae Rasmussen, Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agent for the NALC, recognized NALC military chaplains.

Recognition of Chaplains Serving in Other Contexts

Rev. Bradosky recognized NALC chaplains serving in other contexts.

Greeting from the North American Lutheran Seminary

Rev. Dr. Amy Schifrin, NALS President, and Dr. Roy Schwarz, Chair of Board of Regents, introduced the members of the Board of Regents. Dr. Schwarz shared highlights of the work done by the Board of Regents this past year: developed sabbatical policy for seminary faculty, ethical misconduct statement for non-clergy and clergy faculty and conflict of interest statement that members of the board have signed. Dr. Schwarz explained the five-year plan for Rev. Dr. Schifrin to step down as president of the NALS into a faculty role. Rev. Dr. Schifrin introduced Father Aiden Smith, Trinity School for Ministry Dean of Advancement and Director of Partnerships. Father Smith thanked the NALC for their partnership. Rev. Dr. Schifrin introduced NALS staff members, Marisa Crofts and Ryan Henkel. Rev. Dr. Schifrin thanked Rev. Bradosky and staff, and the Board of Regents and shared her plans to continue as a faculty member of the NALS.

Introduction of Seminarians

Rev. Mark Chavez shared that the NALC continues to have a steady flow of seminarians. Rev. Chavez introduced the current list of seminarians.

Report of Elections Committee

Rev. Carl Johnson presented the results of the first ballot.

Executive Council, clergy, four-year term (one to be elected)

Number of valid ballots: 398

Number necessary to elect: 200

Votes received:

Rev. Timothy Johnson – 101

Rev. Melinda Jones – 223

Rev. James Palan – 74

Rev. Bradosky declared Rev. Melinda Jones elected to the Executive Council for a four-year term.

Executive Council, lay, four-year term (one to be elected)

Number of valid ballots: 392

Number necessary to elect: 197

Votes received:

Mr. Richard Jansak – 213

Mr. Larry Shull – 179

Rev. Bradosky declared Richard Jansak elected to the Executive Council for a four-year term.

Board of Regents, six-year term (three to be elected)

Number of valid ballots: 398

Number necessary to elect: 200

Votes received:

Rev. Wendy Berthelsen – 186

Rev. Dennis Di Mauro – 139

Rev. Phillip Gagnon – 237

Mr. Kevin Langholz – 49

Rev. James Lehmann – 164

Rev. Troy Mulvaine – 40

Rev. David Phillips – 46

Rev. Donna Smith – 140

Rev. Norman Sulaica – 71

Mr. Roger Weyersberg – 81

Rev. Bradosky declared Rev. Phillip Gagnon elected to the Board of Regents for a six-year term. The following candidates would appear on a second ballot: Rev. Wendy Berthelsen, Rev. Dennis Di Mauro, Rev. James Lehmann and Rev. Donna Smith.

Second Ballot

Rev. Hohag prayed over the second ballot for the Board of Regents. The ballot was distributed and collected. Rev. Bradosky declared the ballot closed.

Introduction of Newly Ordained Pastors

Rev. Bradosky announced the names of those who were ordained since the last Convocation.

Recognition of Congregational Anniversaries

Rev. Bradosky recognized congregations celebrating anniversaries.

Report of the Bishop

Rev. Bradosky presented his report. His written report was provided in the Convocation booklet.

Report of the Life-to-Life Discipleship Team

Rev. Tom Brodbeck, Life-to-Life Discipleship Team member presented on behalf of Rev. Eric Riesen, chair, and the Life-to-Life Team. Rev. Brodbeck emphasized the importance of discipleship in the current culture. He recommended resources for congregations and provided ways to get involved in the initiative.

Closing Announcements

Rev. Chavez announced that no resolutions were submitted to the Committee on Reference and Counsel.

6:30pm

Rev. Bradosky declared the Convocation adjourned until 8am Friday morning.

Friday, August 17, 2018

8:30am

Rev. Bradosky declared the Convocation back in session. Rev. Chavez reported there were no changes in the registration numbers.

Greetings from Ecumenical and Inter-Lutheran Guests

Rev. Wendel introduced Rev. Julie Smith from the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). Rev. Smith brought a greeting and expressed gratitude for the partnership between the LCMC and the NALC. Rev. Larry Vogel brought a greeting on behalf of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and shared a reflection on how the Lord possess us (1 Peter 2:9). Rev. Timothy Tuescher, Lutheran Church—Canada (LCC) brought greetings and explained upcoming structural changes in the LCC. Rt. Rev. Charles Masters, Diocesan Bishop in the Anglican Church in North America, brought greetings and encouragement and explained the current events taking place in the Anglican Church.

Report of the Treasurer

Ryan Schwartz, NALC Treasurer recapped financial results for 2017, provided an update on finances for 2018 and reviewed the budget for 2019. The budget was provided in the Convocation booklet. Discussion. *Adopted.*

Report of Second Ballot

Rev. Carl Johnson presented the results of the second ballot.

Board of Regents, six-year term (two to be elected)

Number of valid ballots: 369

Number necessary to elect: 185

Votes received:

Rev. Wendy Berthelsen – 201

Rev. Dennis Di Mauro – 184

Rev. James Lehmann – 176

Rev. Donna Smith – 129

Rev. Bradosky declared Rev. Wendy Berthelsen elected to the Board of Regents for a six-year term. The following candidates would appear on a third ballot: Rev. Dennis Di Mauro and Rev. James Lehmann.

Third Ballot

Rev. Ken Hohag prayed over the third ballot. The third ballot was distributed and collected.

Report of the Church & Ministry Task Force

Rev. Nathan Yoder, on behalf of his mother, Marianne Yoder, brought a report from the Church and Ministry Task Force. The full written report was provided in the Convocation booklet.

Report of the Bishop Election Task Force

Rosemary Johnson offered a report on behalf of the task force. She encouraged each congregation to pick up a packet with a devotional booklet and informational materials on the upcoming Bishop election.

Report on Missions

Rev. Gemechis Buba, NALC Assistant to the Bishop for Missions, reported on the past year of mission in the NALC. He shared that many mission congregations have been able to buy their own buildings this past year. Rev. Bradosky and the Convocation commissioned Rev. James Puotyual as a Global Worker to South Sudan.

Announcements

Rev. Chavez shared announcements and Tsena Dinssa brought a greeting to the Convocation.

10:50am

Break

Rev. Bradosky declared recess until 11:05am.

11:15am

Report of the Task Force on Structure

Brian Sutton, chair of the Structure Task Force presented the task force's report. He explained that the task force's duties are complete and the work will now be passed off to the Executive Council. Rev. Bradosky explained that the Convocation is receiving the report and nothing will be implemented until a new Bishop is elected.

Report of Living & Giving Stewardship Task Force

Rev. Eugene Grimm introduced the 2018 stewardship program. Copies of the program were available at the Convocation and on the NALC website.

Report from Lutherans for Life

Rev. Scott Licht, National Director of Lutherans for Life presented on upcoming events and materials that are available through their organization. Rev. Dennis Di Mauro, Organizer of NALC Life Ministries, encouraged congregations to become involved in pro-life ministries and support NALC Life Ministries' efforts.

Report of Third Ballot

Rev. Carl Johnson presented the results of the third ballot.

Board of Regents, six-year term (one to be elected)

Number of valid ballots: 365

Number necessary to elect: 183

Votes received:

Rev. Dennis Di Mauro – 223

Rev. James Lehmann – 142

Rev. Bradosky declared Rev. Dennis Di Mauro elected to the Board of Regents for a six-year term.

Announcements

Rev. Chavez shared announcements.

1:35pm

Call to Order

Rev. Bradosky called the Convocation to order.

Report of the Women of the NALC

Linda Brower, Outgoing Chair of the WNALC, shared a report on the work of the WNALC this past year and announced the 2019 WNALC Council.

Updated Agenda

Rev. Bradosky presented an updated agenda for the afternoon session.

Report of the Commission on Theology and Doctrine

Rev. Dr. Maurice Lee, Chair of the Commission on Theology and Doctrine, directed the Convocation to the written report in the Convocation booklet and drew attention to the “Bible as the Word of God” document.

On behalf of the commission, Rev. Dr. Lee commended the resolution titled, “Resolution Regarding Ecumenical Consultation between the North American Lutheran Church and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops”, to the Convocation. Rev. Melinda Jones, on behalf of the Executive Council, moved for the resolution. Discussion. Rev. William Maki, Zion – St. Mary’s OH called the question. Seconded. Debate closed. Adopted.

Report of the Disaster Response Team

Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response Coordinator reported on the response to Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Maria and preparations for future disaster response.

Prayer of Remembrance

Rev. Bradosky read the names of clergy that passed away since the last Convocation and offered a prayer.

Introduction of Ministry Partners

Rev. Chavez introduced representatives of the NALC Ministry Partners.

Report from SOLA Publishing

Rev. Mark Ryman brought greetings and shared an update on the work of SOLA Publishing: new location and new discipleship resources.

Report from Water Mission International

Rev. Dan Selbo, on behalf of Kevin Herr, Water Mission International Director of Church Partnerships, shared an overview of the work of Water Mission International and the work that his congregation does to support the organization.

Announcement of 2019 Pastors’ Conference

Rev. Wendel announced the conference will be held in Orlando, FL, February 19-21, 2019. The speakers will include Fr. Steve Pullis, Director of Evangelization, Catechesis and Schools for the Archdiocese of Detroit; Fr. Charles Zlock, Pastor of St. Monica Roman Catholic Church in Berwyn, PA; and Rev. Dr. James Nestingen. Rev. Wendel announced the 2020 Pastors’ Conference will be a joint conference with the ACNA titled, *Disciple Life 2020*. The conference will be held in Orlando, FL., Feb 13-15, 2020.

Announcement of 2019 Canadian Rockies Theological Conference

Rev. Phil Gagnon and Rev. Carl Johnson announced the conference has been adopted by the NALC Canada-Section as an official ministry. The speakers for this year’s conference will be Rev. Larry Vogel and Rev. Dr. Nathan Howard Yoder. The title for the conference will be, *In the World Following Christ: The Lutheran Catechism as a Resource for Live and Witness in Parish, Home and Beyond*. The conference will be held April 30-May 3, 2019.



Announcement of Location for 2019 Convocation

Rev. Mark Chavez announced the Convocation will be held August 5-9, 2019 at the Westin – Indianapolis IN.

3:00pm

Installation of Elected Officers & Close of Convocation

3:10pm

Rev. Bradosky declared the Convocation closed.

Minutes submitted by: Maddie Benson