



## DAN SELBO ELECTED BISHOP

The Rev. Dan Selbo was elected bishop of the North American Lutheran Church by the 2019 NALC Convocation on Friday, August 9, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Bishop Selbo currently serves as pastor of St. Timothy's Lutheran Church in San Jose, California. He holds Masters of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.



Bishop Selbo was elected on the fourth ballot over the Rev. Dr. Eric Riesen, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Ashland, Ohio. The Convocation narrowed the list of candidates from 14 nominees to four on the first ballot on Thursday. The four finalists were Pastor Riesen, the Rev. Dr. David Wendel of Jacksonville, Florida, assistant to the bishop for ministry and ecumenism, and the Rev. Dr. Amy Schifrin, president of the North American Lutheran Seminary in Ambridge, Pennsylvania.

More than 800 delegates and visitors gathered August 7-9 for the 2019 Convocation and Mission Festival around the theme, "Walking by the Spirit with the Fruit of the Spirit."

A Thursday night banquet honored Bishop John Bradosky for his service to the Church. Bishop Bradosky is retiring and did not seek reelection. The banquet featured the Rev. Dr. Malcolm Guite, a poet, priest and singer from Cambridge, England.

Bishop Selbo was installed as bishop during the closing worship of the Convocation, but his four-year term officially begins October 1.

The Mission Festival that preceded the Convocation highlighted the NALC's relationship with Lutherans in Ethiopia and Tanzania. The Rev. Dr. Alex Mkumbo, bishop of the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, and the Rev. Yonas Yigezu, president of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, were featured speakers for the Mission Festival. They also brought greetings to the Convocation and took part in the installation service for Bishop Selbo.

The Mission Festival also featured a variety of breakout sessions to equip members for mission.

**Other Elections:** The Rev. Bassam Abdallah of Prospect, Kentucky, and Scott Kramer of Boerne, Texas, were elected to four-year terms on the Executive Council. The Rev. Jennifer Gold of Helotes, Texas, and the Rev. Leslie Haines of Fort Wayne, Indiana, were elected to the Court of Adjudication.

**2020 budgets were approved.** The Convocation approved a \$2.2 million Operating Budget for the NALC. Budgets were also approved for the church's designated funds: \$723,000 for the Theological Education Fund (which includes the North American Lutheran Seminary); \$197,500 for the Great Commission Fund; and \$123,500 for the Disaster Response Fund. Most of the budgets anticipate spending some cash reserves.

**A new NALC Global Worker,** the Rev. Heidi Punt of Christ United Lutheran Church in Granite Falls, North Carolina, was commissioned for service in Haiti with Sundouloi Ministries (SMI Haiti).

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

**Events preceding the Convocation** were the Mission Festival, Braaten-Benne Lectures in Theology, Women of the NALC Annual Gathering and the Ventures in Youth Ministry Symposium. The Convocation and the events preceding it comprise the NALC's annual Lutheran Week.

**Documents, photos and videos** from the Convocation and other events of Lutheran Week will be posted at [lutheranweek.com](http://lutheranweek.com).