

2010 Western Wisconsin District Convention

June 6-8 • Luther Prep School, Watertown, WI

Sunday, June 6

- 6:00p Pastor Prah1 opened the convention with a devotion based on 2 Timothy 1:8-14.
- 6:18 President Matt Crass welcomed the delegates on behalf of LPS.
- 6:20 Pastor Mark Lindner introduced Pastor Prah1 who gave the presentation entitled “The Divine Call: FAQ.” After the presentation there was time for questions.
- A question was asked about 1 year calls. These calls are discouraged if they are for probationary purposes (trying someone out for a year). However, they are allowed for financial or other reasons.
 - Why do some receive calls all the time and others seem to never receive calls? Pastor Prah1 answered that the gentlemen’s agreement between DPs is not to call a man who has just taken a call for four years. Also, those who have returned a call should not get another one for six months. (With teachers it’s 3 years.) Requests by called workers to be used on lists are generally honored (though not requests for specific places).
 - Why can calls be terminated? Personal reasons (mental health, etc), false doctrine, scandalous live, and the good of the ministry are all reasons.
 - A point was made that it would be good to have on the teacher’s call form to note that teachers should be involved in the congregation (Bible class, committee work, etc) that supports them. The churches and schools are not separate entities.
 - A point was made that “preparing God’s people for works of service” should appear on the call form for pastors.
- 7:17 Synod President Mark Schroeder presented on behalf of the synod. He shared highlights from the 2010 Report to the Twelve Districts and also shared the long range plan for 2017.
- 7:48 Mr. Todd Poppe gave an update of WELS finances. There was a time for questions.
- 8:15 LPS President Matt Crass reported on behalf of Ministerial Education. Mr. Scott Huebner also spoke on behalf of the governing board for MLC.
- 8:37 Pastor Prah1 gave instruction to the Floor Committees.

8:45 The convention was recessed.

Monday, June 7

- 10:02a Pastor Prahel welcomed the delegates to the second day of the convention, made announcement and gave instructions.
- 10:05 Pastor Ken Ewerdt reported on behalf of the Elections Floor Committee. The ballot was handed out for district president.
- 10:11 Pastor Prahel gave the district president's report. At the end of his report, according to tradition, the delegates, pastors and teachers sang "For All the Saints."
- 10:31 First Vice President Mark Lindner gave a presentation entitled "The Call of the Circuit Pastor." There was some time for questions and comments. One point that was made is that it would be good for the circuit pastor to have some contact with the principals and teachers in his circuit.
- 11:15 Pastor Ken Ewerdt reported that there are six names on the ballot for district president. The nominees were pastors Martin Baur, Roy Hefti, Mike Jensen, Mark Lindner, Herb Prahel (incumbent) and Jeff Seelow.
- 11:20 Mr. John Tappe, the district synodical council rep, gave his report.
- 11:34 Pastor Ken Ewerdt announced that Pastor Herb Prahel has been re-elected district president. Nomination ballots were handed out for the position of district first vice-president.
- 11:41 The conference was recessed for circuit caucuses, floor committee meetings and lunch.
- 1:49p Pastor Mark Lindner opened the afternoon session with devotion based on 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2.
- 2:04 Ballots were handed out for the position of district first vice president.
- 2:08 Pastor Dan Koelpin reported on behalf of the Board for World Missions.
- 2:25 Pastor Ken Ewerdt announced that Pastor Mark Lindner has been re-elected as district first vice-president. Ballots were handed out for the position of second vice-president.
- 2:40 Pastor Jensen gave his presentation entitled "Our Call as Brothers."

- 3:10 Ballots were handed out for the position of second vice-president.
- 3:15 Pastor John Kolander reported on behalf of WLC.
- 3:20 Dennis Schultz reported on behalf of WELS Kingdom Workers.
- 3:30 The convention recessed for break.
- 3:55 Pastor Ken Ewerdt announced that Pastor Mike Jensen has been re-elected second vice-president of the district. Nomination ballots were handed out for the position of district secretary.
- 3:57 Mr. Tim Probst reported on behalf of CEF.
- 4:10 Pastor Wayne Schultz, who has served the district as Mission Counselor for many years and is retiring in June, was thanked for his service with a round of applause.
- 4:12 Pastor John Braun reported on behalf of NPH.
- 4:25 Various reports were given by the heads of district areas of service.
- 4:55 Pastor Ken Ewerdt handed out ballots for the position of district secretary. Three men were nominated: Pastors Roy Hefti, Daniel Sims and Paul Schupmann.
- 4:59 Pastor Paul Scharrer reported on the ministry of Calvary Academy.
- 5:00 Convention recessed for dinner.
- 6:46 Convention reconvened.
- 6:49 Pastor J.D. Liggett reported on behalf of the Ministry of Christian giving. There was a time for questions.
- 7:45 Pastor Ken Ewerdt reported that Pastor Daniel Sims was re-elected as district secretary.
- 7:46 Pastor Don Buch reported on behalf of the nominating committee. A motion to accept the ballot as given passed.
- 8:00 A few announcements were made.
- 8:04 Pastor Prahl closed the evening's session with a prayer.

Tuesday, June 8

- 8:00a Pastor Mike Jensen opened the day with a devotion based on 2 Timothy 4:6-8.
- 8:18 Pastor Keith Free reported on behalf of the district mission board.
- 8:30 Mr. John Flanagan reported on behalf of WELS VEBA.
- 8:45 Pastor Joe Fricke reported on behalf of Floor Committee #1: President's Report. A number of statistical, spelling, name and date corrections were made to the report. He also encouraged the delegates to make use of the stewardship materials provided by synod and to keep the work of synod before our congregations. The committee also provided a memorial regarding continuing education for called workers. The memorial included two resolutions: a) That we strongly encourage congregations to consider setting aside resources of time and finances in order to encourage and enable called workers to continue their education; b) That we encourage all called workers to continue taking advantage of opportunities provided for their ongoing education in order to faithfully develop and use the gifts that God has given them. A motion was made and passed to accept the memorial. There was some discussion. The motion passed. The committee also recommended that the convention offering of \$1,856.25 be given to the Wisconsin District Scholarship Fund. A motion was made to do this. The motion passed.
- 8:55 Pastor Bill Runke reported on behalf of Floor Committee #3: District Convention in Synod Convention Years. He stated that those who signed the memorial were not all on the same page as to what they were asking for. Currently we have conferences in synod convention years and conventions in non-synod-convention years. The idea behind the memorial is to have a district delegate convention also on synod-convention years to better prepare delegates from our district for synod convention. Pastor Runke presented a new memorial with three resolutions: a) That the Western Wisconsin District meet in a Pastor-Teacher/Staff-Minister Delegate convention prior to each synod convention; b) that the delegates shall hear reports on and discuss the work of the synod; c) that we encourage all those who will be serving as delegates to the Synod Convention to be in attendance so that they will have district-wide input to better prepare them for the synod convention. A motion was made to adopt the resolutions. There was quite a bit of discussion on the motion. To clarify, congregations would be strongly encouraged to send their lay delegate to the synod convention as their lay delegate to the district convention in the same year. A further clarification: this memorial calls

for a district convention every year. The motion was defeated by count of hands (141 to 88).

- 9:45 Pastor Jeff Seelow reported on behalf of Floor Committee #2: Circuit Realignment. He presented three resolutions: a) that circuits with twelve congregations or more work to divide into smaller circuits, or elect a co-circuit pastor, so that the work of the circuit pastor(s) in each circuit would be manageable; b) that the circuits would be more proactive in serving the congregations of the circuit; c) that this change takes place at the circuit level between now and the next district convention. A motion was made to accept these resolutions. There was some discussion. It was clarified that this is not a mandate but an encouragement. It's up to the individual circuits. The motion passed.
- 9:55 Pastor Ken Ewerdt reported on behalf of Floor Committee #4: Elections. He read the list of election results (district officers, circuit pastors, other district positions). The slate of delegates to the 2011 district convention was presented. A motion was made to accept the list. After a few corrections, the list was approved.
- 10:15 Convention recessed for break.
- 10:35 Pastor Luke Were presented on behalf of Floor Committee #5: President / Synodical Council / Finances. The first resolution concentrated on resource allocation: a) that we encourage the Synodical Council to strive to increase allocation for worker training. The resolution passed. A second resolution concentrated on tuition control for ministerial education: a) that we suggest that a portion of the increase in allocation toward ministerial education be used to help control tuition increases. There was some discussion. The resolution was adopted. A third group of resolutions dealt with the chief financial officer's report to the Western Wisconsin District: a) that we thank Todd Poppe and the Synodical Council for their watchfulness and continued labors on our behalf; b) that we continue to bring our concerns to God who is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within us (Eph. 3:20); c) That we (the called workers and congregational leaders) communicate these concerns to our congregations; d) that we exert ourselves to communicate the gospel with the prayerful result that the Holy Spirit will prompt joy-filled hearts to respond; e) that we encourage our congregations with the Lord's help to increase their CMOs above the historical average of 2% per year. The resolution were adopted.
- 11:00 A number of rapid reports were given.
- 11:12 Pastor Prahl declared that the business of the convention is complete. He thanked the brothers for their attention, their efforts and their comments.

He thanked the LPS family for their hospitality in hosting us. He also thanked all the musicians and singers that served us at worship. A motion was made to officially thank all these people. The motion passed.

11:15 A motion was made to adjourn. The motion passed. The convention was recessed for closing devotion and installation of district officers.

Attendance: 390 registered / 18 unregistered / 37 not attending (as reported by Roger Kobleske)

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Daniel Sims
District Secretary