

**2009 North Wisconsin District  
*Revive! Renew! Reach Out!*  
Convention Results**

**District President**



The Rev. Joel A. Hoelter was elected to his second term as President of the North Wisconsin District at the 49<sup>th</sup> regular convention meeting at the Hotel Sierra & KI Convention Center, Green Bay, Wisconsin on Sunday, June 14, 2009.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

The Rev. Paul A. Weber was re-elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.



**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**



The Rev. William C. Plautz was re-elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President**

The Rev. Dr. Timothy E. Wenger was re-elected 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President.



## **District Secretary**



The Rev. Daniel P. Thews was re-elected District Secretary.

## **Other Election Results**

### **Board of Directors (\* Denotes re-election)**

Rev. Timothy M. Ott – ordained  
Mr. Jerry Jiter – commissioned  
\* Mr. Jack Kleinschmidt - lay  
\* Mr. Richard Ross – lay  
\* Mr. Dennis Clauss – lay  
\* Dr. Richard Steinke – lay  
Ms. Anne Hartman – lay  
\* Ms. Paula Krueger - lay  
\* Mr. Ken Longmire – commissioned

### **2012 North Wisconsin District Nominations Committee**

Ms. Susan Longmire – commissioned  
Rev. Chad Ott – ordained  
Dr. Richard Steinke – lay  
Rev. Wes Baumeister – ordained  
Mr. Gary Fawcett – lay  
Rev. David Emmons – ordained  
Ms. Dottie Neumann – lay

### **2010 Synod Nominations Committee**

Rev. Dennis Voss - ordained

### **2010 Synod Convention – Advisory Delegates**

Ms. Sue Lilienthal – commissioned  
Ms. Gina Maroszek – commissioned

## Circuit Counselors

Circuit Counselors are elected by their circuit and ratified by convention delegates. The following counselors will serve during the next triennium.

- \* 01 - Rev. Larry Steckling
- \* 02 - Rev. Paul Kelto
- \* 03 - Rev. Ron Mueller
- 04 - Rev. Neal MacLachlan
- 05 - Rev. Jonathan Cluppert
- \* 06 - Rev. Joel Danner
- \* 07 - Rev. Donald Engebretson
- \* 08 - Rev. Michael Scholz
- \* 09 - Rev. Daniel Welch
- \* 10 - Rev. Paul Hunsicker
- \* 11 - Rev. David Faulkner
- 12 - Rev. Todd Jerabek
- \* 13 - Rev. David Miller
- \* 14 - Rev. Paul Scheunemann
- \* 15 - Rev. Ricky Bertels
- \* 16 - Rev. Doug Schalow
- \* 17 - Rev. Kevin Ader
- \* 18 - Rev. Paul Shackel
- \* 19 - Rev. Steven Kline
- \*20 - Rev. Dennis Voss

## RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions were adopted:

### RESOLUTION 09-02

#### **SUBJECT: Resolution for North Wisconsin District Convention Reaffirming Holy Baptism**

PREAMBLE "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (*Ephesians 2:8-10*)

We believe that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, by His crucifixion and His resurrection. He brings this salvation to us by the power of His living Word (*Romans 10:17*), which is also the power working in His Sacraments (*1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Ephesians 5:26*). This saving grace creates saving faith in us (*Galatians 3:26-27*), which in turn leads to new life that witnesses daily to the love of our living Savior Jesus Christ (*Romans 6:3-4*).

We seek to joyfully proclaim these Scriptural truths in our congregations and in the daily lives of our members. We who have been saved *from* sin are also saved *for* discipleship under our Lord Jesus. And we recognize and reaffirm that Holy Baptism is God's work of grace to begin that first day of new life as His disciples, and bring it to completion in His Day (*Philippians 1:6*)!

#### RATIONALE:

Whereas, Scripture clearly teaches that Holy Baptism is God's gift and God's work in us;

Whereas, Scripture also teaches our need for the blessings of God that He bestows in and through Holy Baptism;

Whereas, Scripture teaches those whom the Spirit baptizes He also brings to new life in Christ;

Whereas, our Lutheran Confessions rightly assert what God's Word has taught regarding His power at work in Holy Baptism;

Whereas, many of our members mistakenly believe that since they are baptized, they are excused from any further life with Christ and His Church;

Whereas, many of our members have mistakenly ignored the Lord's call to daily contrition, repentance and new life as a Baptized child of God; and...

Whereas, many of our members are being led to denominations which deny the efficacy of Holy Baptism as a means of grace; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we encourage our congregations to re-embrace the salvation and newness of life which God gives in Holy Baptism; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage our congregations, in our preaching and teaching, to make a purposeful effort to renew our members' faith and knowledge of God's Word regarding Holy Baptism, and to do so within one year of adoption of this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage our congregations to reaffirm the Biblical invitation and expectation to baptize infants, and to clearly explain from God's Word why we do; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we encourage our congregations to lovingly apply God's Word corporately and individually, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, our members will be inspired to not only celebrate God's initiation of their salvation in Holy Baptism, but also joyfully and daily demonstrate their faith response to the grace God has given them in Christ Jesus.

### **Floor Committee #1 - Joel Danner, Chairman**

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### **RESOLUTION 09-04**

#### **SUBJECT: To Amend NWD Bylaws Regarding Term Limits for District President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Circuit Counselors**

The Rationale for this recommendation is to limit the problem of 'bureaucratitus' that is present in organizations as individuals stay in office for long periods of time. These individuals can get in a rut, become isolated from the people, and tend to accumulate power which then becomes the basis for decisions rather than clear thinking. While some may see elections as eliminating these problems "because you can always vote them out of office," the momentum of incumbency is difficult to overcome even when someone is doing a bad job.

As opposed to re-election without limit, it is healthy to get new blood into an organization along with a fresh perspective. Other synodical districts have imposed term limits on, for example, their president, and other elected offices in our district have term limits. Therefore, it will be good administrative procedure to apply term limits to district officers as well. This change also reinforces the long tradition in the LCMS of allowing God's Word to guide us rather than depending on the bureaucracy to get the job done.

Whereas, the problem of 'bureaucratitus' is present within the church as well as without, and

Whereas, all district offices with the exception of officers have term limits imposed on them, and

Whereas, while bureaucracy is necessary in an organization, it can also be the source of problems as Martin Luther ran into five hundred years ago, and

Whereas, it the Word of God that guides us in all good things, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Bylaw 3.02.b. be restated as follows:

- b. The Office of President, Vice President, Secretary of the District and of the Circuit Counselors shall be ~~without limitation as to re-election~~ *ineligible for re-election to the same position after serving a total of three complete successive terms*. All other elected District officers and members of the District Board of Directors and of all standing committees shall be ineligible for re-election to the same position after

serving a total of two complete successive terms. Appointed members of District standing committees, and committees shall be ineligible for re-appointment after serving a total of two complete successive terms. Officers, members of the Board of Directors, standing committees, committees and commissions may become eligible again for election or appointment to the same office, board or committee after an interval of three or more years.

**Floor Committee #1 - Joel Danner, Chairman**

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**RESOLUTION 09-06**

**SUBJECT: To Amend the District Handbook**

Whereas, the 2006 Convention of the North Wisconsin District approved the adoption of policy-based governance; and

Whereas, during the past triennium, the North Wisconsin District Board of Directors has worked to incorporate those changes that are necessary to operate within the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, that the proposed changes approved by the North Wisconsin District Board of Directors and recommended by the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters be adopted. (See Tab 2 – District Reports – 2009 District Handbook)

**Floor Committee #1 – Joel Danner, Chairman**

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**RESOLUTION 09-08**

**SUBJECT: To Revise the Selection and Number of CCM Members**

Whereas, the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) exists to interpret the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod and ensure that the governing instruments of the Synod and its agencies are in accord with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod (2007 *Handbook* 3.9.2); and

Whereas, all five voting members of the CCM currently are appointed by the President of the Synod as outlined in Synod Bylaw 3.9.2.1.1: *“(a) Candidates shall be nominated only by the district boards of directors and shall be presented to the Council of Presidents through the Office of the Secretary. (b) The Council of Presidents shall select five candidates for each vacant position and present them through the office of the Secretary of the Synod to the President of the Synod. (c) The President of the Synod, in consultation with the vice-presidents of the Synod, shall appoint the members of the commission from the list presented by the Council of Presidents. (d) Thereafter the appointments shall become effective upon ratification by a majority vote of the members of the Council of Presidents.”*; and

Whereas, an opinion rendered by the CCM shall be binding on the question decided unless and until it is overruled by a convention of the Synod (2007 *Handbook* 3.9.2.2(c)); and

Whereas, the President of the Synod also appoints the convention floor committees (2007 *Handbook* 3.1.7) and is responsible for the overall organization and operations of the conventions of the S Synod (2007 *Handbook* 3.1.9); and

Whereas, the same man who currently appoints all CCM members also organizes and chairs the floor committees, the mechanism provided through which resolutions must be passed within the LCMS for overruling CCM decisions, and

Whereas, this structure may have the potential to create a conflict of interest; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the North Wisconsin District Convention memorialize the Synod in convention in 2010 to expand the membership of the CCM from five voting members to seven voting members, consisting of four pastors and three attorneys; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the selection of these voting members be in accordance with the following: one pastor and one attorney appointed by the President of the Synod (using 2007 *Handbook* 3.9.2.1.1 for these two positions), one pastor and one attorney appointed by the Synod Board of Directors (using 2007 *Handbook* 3.9.2.1.1(a)(b) with vacancies from these two positions filled by the BOD), and two pastors and one attorney elected by the Synod in convention (using 2007 *Handbook* 3.9.2.1.1(a)(b) with vacancies from these three positions filled by election of the delegates during the remainder of their three year term as defined in 3.1.2.2).

#### **Floor Committee #1 - Joel Danner, Chairman**

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#### **RESOLUTION 09-10**

#### **SUBJECT: To Require Consideration of CCM-Related Overtures and Resolutions Pertaining to Theological Matters By Conventions of Synod**

Whereas, "The Commission on Constitutional Matters exists to interpret the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod and ensure that the governing instruments of the Synod and its agencies are in accord with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod" (2007 *Handbook* 3.9.2); and

Whereas, "An opinion rendered by the CCM shall be binding on the question decided unless and until it is overruled by a convention of the Synod. Overtures to a convention that seek to overrule an opinion of the commission shall support the proposed action with substantive rationale from the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod. All such overtures shall be considered by the floor committee to which they have been assigned and shall be included in a specific report to the convention with recommendations for appropriate action" (2007 *Handbook* 3.9.2.2(c)); and

Whereas, there is a review procedure when "an opinion pertains to business, legal, or property matters and the Board of Directors of the Synod concludes that such opinion of the commission is contrary to the laws of the State of Missouri," (2007 *Handbook* 3.9.2.2(c)); and

Whereas, the only remedy when the opinion pertains to theological matters is "consideration by the floor committee" (2007 *Handbook* 3.9.2.2(c)) which does not necessarily result in consideration by the convention of Synod, thus, allowing an opinion on theological matters to remain binding without review of the convention; and

Whereas, amendments to the bylaws are the responsibility of ONLY the conventions of the Synod (2007 *Handbook* 7.1.1 and 7.1.2); be it, therefore,

RESOLVED, that the North Wisconsin District Convention memorialize the Synod in convention in 2010 that any overtures and resolutions submitted to a convention of Synod regarding theological opinions rendered by the Commission on Constitutional Matters must be given time for consideration by the convention of Synod and may not be removed from the docket when such overtures are submitted by an official district conference of ordained and/or commissioned ministers, the faculty of an educational institution of the Synod, the Board of Directors of the Synod, or a district convention; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any CCM opinion which has been challenged as outlined in the first resolved, and which receives no time for consideration by the convention of Synod, be declared null and void upon the adjournment of that convention of Synod.

### **Floor Committee #1 - Joel Danner, Chairman**

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#### **RESOLUTION 09-12**

#### **SUBJECT: To Faithfully Uphold the Teaching of Biblical Creation in the Year 2009 When Many Are Celebrating Charles Darwin and His Theory of Evolution**

Whereas, many are celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Charles Darwin and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his book *Origin of Species* in 2009, and

Whereas, Darwin's theory of slow gradual change, coupled with the selection mechanism, survival of the fittest explains life as evolving without God as the Maker of the heavens and the earth, and

Whereas, Darwinian evolution is widely taught as the only explanation for the origin of life in our nation's public schools and universities, and

Whereas, Darwin thought it would be only a matter of time before the missing links in the fossil record would be found thereby validating his theory, but, despite much digging, the fossil record does not today support the Darwinian theory and the missing links are still missing, and

Whereas, according to the Darwinian theory, all life is simply the product of time and chance with the first cell having been generated by the spontaneous generation of life from non-life out of the primordial pond, and

Whereas, scientists such as Louis Pasteur have proven that spontaneous generation is not possible and today we know that the complexity of living things is so great that according to probability theory it would be virtually impossible for even one (information rich) cell to have happened by chance, and

Whereas, the scientific method requires not only a theory but also observable and repeatable documentation of a theory which has not been the case with the Darwinian theory, and since evolution cannot be proven, it can only be accepted on the basis of faith, just as creationism is accepted on the basis of faith, and

Whereas, evolution explains death as part of the natural process but the Bible says that death is the result of sin, and

Whereas, the Bible states that God created the heavens and the earth in six twenty-four hour days and rested on the seventh day and, further, that we are always to be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in us, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the North Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod rejects the Darwinian theory as unscientific and unproven, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NWD condemns evolution (including theistic evolution) as being contrary to Scripture and destructive of faith in Christ, since Jesus is God's answer to the problem of sin and death, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that, the NWD in this the year of our Lord 2009 respectfully, humbly, and faithfully reaffirms its belief in a literal six day creation as taught in Genesis chapters one through three, since God was there at the beginning and, therefore, the creation story is the record of the One present and is accurate.

**Floor Committee #1 - Joel Danner, Chairman**

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## **RESOLUTION 09-14**

**SUBJECT: To Encourage NWD Congregations to Show Ben Stein's "Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed" Movie to Their Members and/or in their Communities**

Whereas, the LCMS teaches, according to Genesis chapters one and two, that God created the world in six days, and

Whereas, many today, especially in the scientific community, believe that the Darwinian is the right explanation for origins (in other words that all life is the product of time and chance and survival of the fittest), and

Whereas, the teaching of evolution undermines all of Scripture and the Christian faith, and

Whereas, in this battle over the question of origins, our public institutions of learning (grade schools, high schools, and universities) are increasingly denying the free expression of any idea except that of evolution as the answer to how life began, and

Whereas, we live in a country that allows for the free expression of ideas, and

Whereas, the movie "Expelled" documents "that educators and scientists are being ridiculed, denied tenure, and even fired—for merely believing that there might be evidence of 'design' in nature", and

Whereas, scientific investigation can only be hampered in the end by not allowing free discussion of all possibilities, including that of creationism and intelligent design, as it tries to answer the question of origins, and

Whereas, this movie provides a venue for examining what is happening in and around us here in the United States of America, and

Whereas, Jude 3 appeals "to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints," and 1 Peter 3.15 states that God's children are "always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you," (ESV) therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the NWD are encouraged to show Ben Stein's "Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed" movie to their members and in their communities as opportunity avails itself, and be it further

RESOLVED, that information about this overture and the movie "Expelled" be published in the "North Wisconsin Messenger" (insert in the "Lutheran Witness") and in the "Northern Herald."

### **Floor Committee #1 - Joel Danner, Chairman**

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#### **RESOLUTION 09-16**

#### **SUBJECT: To Address the Role of the Floor Committee(s) on Resolutions For North Wisconsin District Conventions**

Whereas, at the 2006 NWD Convention eleven of eighteen overtures were declined by the floor committee and placed in a single omnibus resolution limiting the due attention of the delegates, and

Whereas, during the course of the convention, four of the declined overtures were removed and three of those four were passed (two of them being combined into one resolution) and two other overtures were respectfully referred to the district president, and

Whereas, removal from the omnibus resolution consumed valuable convention floor time, and

Whereas, "conventions 'are the principal legislative assemblies' of the District (2007 handbook of the LCMS), it is appropriate that those groups who are allowed to submit overtures have opportunity to do so, and that when possible those overtures receive due attention by the delegates" (quoted from 1/6/09 e-mail by President Joel Hoelter), and

Whereas, according to *Robert's Rules of Order*, 10<sup>th</sup> edition, "In the simplest arrangement, the Resolutions Committee has only the power to put resolutions in proper form, eliminate duplication where similar resolutions are offered, and ensure that all resolutions relating to a specific subject will be offered in a logical sequence," (page 616) and

Whereas, neither the NWD bylaws (4.05) nor the LCMS bylaws (3.1.7) give express authority to decline overtures except NWD Bylaw 4.05d which was not applicable here since all the overtures were published, and

Whereas, district conventions need to discuss the business before the church and not avoid it, and

Whereas, the Christian church has always profited from discussion and controversy such as the Trinitarian and Christological controversies of the early church which brought us the Nicene Creed and the Reformation controversies which produced the *Book of Concord* and let the light of the Gospel shine forth clearly once again, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the District President continue to instruct the floor committee(s) on resolutions to follow NWD bylaw 4.05, Convention Overtures, and *Robert's Rules of Order* which will properly and efficiently bring submitted overtures to the convention floor for discussion and voting.

**Floor Committee #1 - Joel Danner, Chairman**

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**RESOLUTION 09-18**

**SUBJECT: To Give Thanks to God, and Properly Compensate Our Circuit Counselors**

Whereas, Scripture is clear in stating that good and able workers should be properly compensated for their work. St. Paul is specific when he quotes the Law of Moses and the teaching of Jesus in 1 Timothy 5:17-18, by saying: <sup>17</sup> The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. <sup>18</sup> For the Scripture says, Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain, (Deuteronomy 25:4), and The worker deserves his wages. (Luke 10:7) Elders refer to those who occupy official positions of leadership in the church. The task of the elders was to direct the affairs of the church. For their oversight all elders received a stipend; but those who excelled in this ministry of leadership were to be considered worthy of double honor, or twice the remuneration as the rest, and

Whereas, most congregations follow these directives when they compensate Pastors, Teachers, Various Commissioned Ministers of Religion, Vacancy Pastors, and have extended these directives to people who do good service for the congregations, such as secretaries, organists and janitors, and

Whereas, Synodical Districts follow similar procedures as they compensate District Presidents, District Executives, and Vice-Presidents, and other district personnel, and

Whereas, the rationale in the case of district executives and Vice-Presidents is that they are extensions of the President's office and perform needed service and ministry within the district, and

Whereas, with respect to Circuit Counselors the Synodical Handbook specifically says Each circuit counselor shall assist the district president within the circuit. (a) He shall serve under the direction of and be accountable to the district president, and shall serve as his spokesman when so authorized and directed and shall assist him in doctrinal and spiritual supervision, and (k) The circuit counselor is authorized to draw on the district treasury for his expenses. (Bylaw 5.2.3, 2007 Synodical Handbook), and

Whereas, district Vice-presidents are paid \$3,780 per year for their time and effort, and district executives are paid according to the District Salary Scale, and

Whereas, Circuit Counselors are not compensated for their time and effort, except for reimbursement of automobile mileage at \$.505 per mile, and

Whereas, Circuit Counselors invest large amounts of personal time, NOT congregation time, to perform their duties when they assist congregations in filling vacancies, attend call committee meetings, (usually a minimum of three meetings EACH TIME the congregation extends a call, which meetings often take more than 3 hours), attend congregation call meetings, deal with congregation issues and conflicts, counsel brother

Pastors, take phone calls, respond to e-mails, and fulfill the other duties of his office, (see Bylaw 5.2, 5.3, and 5.4, Synodical Handbook, 2007 edition, pages 194-198 for complete job description of circuit counselors), and

Whereas, some circuits are geographically challenged, requiring as many as 3 hours of non-reimbursed driving time by the circuit counselor to attend meetings, or deal with congregation issues, and

Whereas, these are all district duties, and

Whereas, these duties deprive the families of the Circuit Counselor of his time, and

Whereas, it is becoming more and more difficult to get qualified men to assume the duties of these offices for the above reasons, and

Whereas, our Circuit Counselors are not greedy, but deserving of compensation, therefore be it

Resolved, that the North Wisconsin District expresses its thanks to God for these dedicated Pastors who are willing to serve in this office, and be it further

Resolved, that the North Wisconsin District expresses its thanks directly to our circuit counselors by offering them an annual stipend equal to \$100, times the number of congregations in their circuits, thereby acknowledging the amount of time required by individual congregations in the circuit counselor's exercise of his ministry to them, and be it further

Resolved, that the North Wisconsin District fund this amount in the spirit of Synodical Bylaw 5.2.3(k), drawing on the district treasury for these expenses, specifically the account designated for the operation of the Office of the District President, at whose pleasure they serve, and be it finally

Resolved, that any circuit counselor who feels he can not accept this remuneration, is free to return it to the District Treasury.

**Floor Committee #1 – Joel Danner, Chairman**

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## **RESOLUTION 09-20**

**SUBJECT: To decline certain Overtures**

RESOLVED, that the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reason indicated:

**09-21 – To Address the Proper Lutheran Etiquette for Congregations Calling a Pastor for North Wisconsin District Convention: Standard Operating Procedures currently exist in the *Council of Presidents Manual* and the *Circuit Counselors Manual*.**

**09-23 – To Speak Out Against Excessive CEO Compensation: This overture calls upon the Synod to act beyond its stated purposes.**

**Floor Committee #1 - Joel Danner, Chairman**