

**52nd Convention of the Rocky Mountain District
June 9-10, 2022
Minutes**

Friday - June 10, 2022

8:00 Opening Devotions—Rev. Keith Besel, Rocky Flats Circuit Visitor

8:15 Credentials Committee Report—Rev Jason Rust

Voting Pastoral Delegates-93

Voting Lay Delegates-94

Total Voting Delegates-187

Motion to accept credentials report, 2nd, Adopted.

8:19 Motion to accept Minutes from June 9, 2022, Minutes adopted.

8:16 Elections continue as necessary; Floor Committees

Rev. Trent Christiansen—Elections Committee

Ranking of Three Vice Presidents, as 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Vice Presidents

1st Ballot

- Rev. Mark Nierman—Eastern 48%
- Rev. Michael Redeker—Western 15%
- Rev. Jason Rust—Southern 37%

2nd Ballot

- Rev. Mark Nierman—Eastern 56%
- Rev. Jason Rust—Southern 44%

- **Rev. Mark Nierman elected 2nd Vice President.**

Election for 3rd Vice President

Rev. Michael Redeker—Western 28%

Rev. Jason Rust—Southern 71%

- **Rev. Jason Rust elected 3rd Vice President.**
- **Rev. Redeker is 4th Vice President.**

Board of Directors—Commissioned Ministers

- Mrs. Melissa DeGroot (Southern)
- Mrs. Paulette “Polly” Wegner (Central)

Moved that the candidates would be voted by acclamation, 2nd.

Both are elected.

Board of Directors—Layperson (Central)

- Ms. Marcia Hogan 56%
- Mr. Micah Lile 44%

Under RMD Bylaw 3.02 B. 8., Mr. Chris Paulsen disqualified to be elected because Rev. Jared Melius was elected First Vice President, shall serve on the RMD Board of Directors, and both are from the same congregation.

- **Ms. Marcia Hogan Elected Layperson BoD (Central)**

Board of Directors—Layperson (Eastern)

1st Ballot

- Mr. Gary Brookshire
- Mr. Grant Drenkow
- Mr. E. Christian Kopff
- Mr. Mark Otteman
- Mr. Kenneth Stroud Jr.

2nd Ballot

- Mr. Gary Brookshire 28%
 - Mr. E. Christian Kopff 46%
 - Mr. Kenneth Stroud Jr. 22%
-
- **Mr. Gary Brookshire and Mr. E. Christian Kopff elected laypersons (Eastern).**

Board of Directors—Layperson (Southern)

- Mr. Al Koschmann 22%
 - Mr. Earl Needham 27%
 - Mr. Damon Tobias 61%
-
- **Mr. Damon Tobias elected (Southern).**

Board of Directors Layperson (Western)

- Mr. Rick Oberheu 19%
 - Mr. Darrel Wagner 56%
 - Mr. Russ Winterstein 25%
-
- **Mr. Darrel Wagner elected layperson (Western).**

2nd Ballot

- Mr. Rick Oberheu 41%
 - Mr. Russ Winterstein 59%
-
- **Mr. Russ Winterstein elected layperson (Western).**

8:32 Chair closed nominations for western region Layperson, no objections.

8:44 Rev. Eli Lietzau—Nominations Committee

Chris Paulsen nominated from the floor for the District Nominating Committee.
Commissioned ministers closed for District Nominating Committee.
Closed nominations for lay representatives for District Nominating Committee.

District Nominations Committee—lay representative

1st Ballot

- Kimberly Bower (Central) 42%
- Chris Paulsen (Central) 46%
- Marisa Showalter (Central) 11 %

2nd Ballot

- Kimberly Bower 51%
- Chris Paulsen 49%

- **Kimberly Bower elected to Nominations Committee.**

Chair calls for a vote of acclamation for Rev. Andrew Packer from the Western Region, 2nd,
Voice vote,

- **Rev. Andrew Packer is elected for Nominations Committee Western Region.**

District Nominations Committee

- Rev. Adam DeGroot (South) 45%
- Rev. Doug Escue (South) 55%
- 8:54 **Rev. Doug Escue is elected to Nominations Committee.**

8:54 **Motion to declare all elections unanimous, 2nd, Adopted.**

8:55 Rev. Michael Redeker—Chairman, Floor Committee-Live the Faith

Committee Chair moves adoption Overture 2022-2-02 To Adopt Proposed Changes to RM District Bylaws

Motion, in three parts, first, to amend 2.01.A.1.e. to delete the word “voting”;
second, to delete from 2.01.C.1.c) the entire addition beginning with the phrase “In
addition,”; and

third, if the change made by this amendment is not approved by the Synod’s Commission
on Constitutional Matters, then this amendment shall have no effect and the underlying language
of the unaltered original and existing Bylaws, adopted June 5, 2015, shall be restored.

- Yes 65%
- No 35%

- **Amendment adopted**

Motion to leave the language of 2.02 A, in its original form, “a President serving on a full-time basis shall live in the Denver Area.” Motion, 2nd,

Rev. Gary Piepkorn takes chair.

President Schlechte addresses convention, speaking in favor of keeping the wording of the proposed change concerning the residency requirement of the District President.

9:19 President Schlechte takes chair.

Called the question, **Adopted**

Discussion is ended

- Amendment
- Yes 18%
- No 82%
- **Amendment fails.**

Motion to accept Bylaws as Amended,

Yes 92%

No 8%

Overture 2022-2-02 To Adopt Proposed Changes to RM District Bylaws as amended, Adopted.

9:23

Overture 2022-2-08 Affirm the need for ministry with people with disabilities and Exhort Pastors and Congregation to Include Outreach to and Ministry with people with Disabilities

Yes 91%

No 9%

- **Adopted**

9:28

2022-2-07A Automobile Expenses and Reimbursement in the Rocky Mountain District of the LCMS

Committee moved adoption

Yes 95%

No 5%

- **Adopted**

9:30 Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa

10:30 Siberian Lutheran Mission Presentation.

Rev. Gary Piepkorn introduced Rev. Dr. Timothy Quill.

Four-minute video about the state of church under communism, the state of the seminary today, and the efforts the faculty and staff of the seminary are taking to to keep the seminary open.

Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk seeking to establish an endowment fund to help keep the seminary open.

Seminary Rector Rev. Dr. Alexey Streltsov from Novosibirsk, Siberia, Russia addressed Convention

- Have students from Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan;
- Thankful for support and prayers already given by the RMD, and look forward to a continued relationship;
- The Seminary had 100% indigenous staff;
- The Seminary exists for the sake of the church, not just the people of Siberia, but also the Una Sancta; and
- We are one in faith and want to be about the preservation of the church in Siberia, preparing men for the Holy Ministry, to preach the Gospel and administer the Sacraments, through theological education.

10:49 Prayer by Rev. Gary Piepkorn

10:50 Floor Committees

Rev. Michael Redeker—Chairman, Floor Committee, Live the Faith

Resolution 2022-2-03 To Establish an International Mission Effort for the Next Triennium

Chair moved adoption,

Voice Vote,

- **Resolution Adopted**

10:55 Rev. Tim Runtsch—Chairman, Floor Committee, Know the Truth

2022-1-05 To Reaffirm the Biblical Doctrine of Creation and the Age of the Earth

Referencing Overtures 2022-1-03 and 2022-1-04

Committee Moves Adoption

11:02 **proposed friendly amendment** to define as Concordia Publishing House, line 41, no objections, **friendly amendment Adopted.**

11:03 **proposed amendment:** lines 35-39 would read, that the Rocky Mountain district of the LCMS memorialize the Synod in convention to reaffirm its stance that God created the heavens and the earth out of nothing (Hebrews 11:3) and that the age of the earth is less than 10,000 years as opposed to millions and billions of years, is in harmony with the Word of God, and be it further. 2nd,

- **Amendment fails.**

11:22 Vote on Resolution

Yes 67%

No 17%

Abstain 18%

- **Resolution is Adopted**

2022-01-06 To Reaffirm the Proper Use and Consecration of the Lord's Supper

- Chair Moves Adoption
-

11:27 Discussion of Resolution begins

Motion to change line 43-44 ...and absolves Christians from the pastor's administration, 2nd,

Yes 81%

No 19%

- **Amendment Adopted.**
-

Motion to amend to add additional whereas following the last whereas, and addition resolved to follow immediately after the addition whereas

Whereas, on March 20, 2020, the CTCR unanimously endorsed "Communion and Covid-19" (CC19), an opinion on certain Holy Communion practices during the coronavirus pandemic which recommended against online, streaming services of Communion in which households consecrate with the pastor and then commune together alone; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Rocky Mountain District in convention commend the work of the CTCR statement "Communion and Covid-19," which does not support the online video streaming "consecration" with words spoken by the pastor remotely and the partaking of the elements by those gathered at another location; and be it further

11:46 Discussion Ended

- **Amendment Adopted.**

Motion to add "physically" before gathered in line 43 of original version of Resolution 2022-1-06, and line 53 of amended Resolution 2022-01-06a.

Yes 82%

No 18%

- **Amendment Adopted**

Discussion ended for time.

Vote on **2022-01-06a To Reaffirm the Proper Use and Consecration of the Lord's Supper**

Yes 74%

No 13%

Abstain 12%

Work of Floor Committee: "Know the Truth" is complete. Rev. Runtsch, Chairman, thanked his committee for their work.

Convention stood and sang the "Doxology"

11:54

Rev. Michael Redeker: Floor Committee: Live the Faith

Omnibus Resolution A, moved adoption

Yes 97%

No 3%

- **Adopted**

Omnibus Resolution C

Yes 96%

No 4%

- **Adopted**

11:59 Elections committee moved adoption of 2022-03-01a To Ratify the Circuit Visitors of the Rocky Mountain District

Yes 98%

No 2%

- **Adopted**

12:00 Lunch Break, Convention in Recess

1:15 Special Guests

1:15—LWML Newly Elected President of the RMD—Mrs. Shelley Stewart

1:22—Rev. Gary Piepkorn—Ministry to the Armed Forces

1:26—Elizabeth Pittman—Concordia Publishing House

1:30—Rev. Robert Rahn—Lutheran Heritage Foundation

1:34 Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa

2:23 brings greetings from Michael Thomas, President Concordia University Irvine

2:23 Greetings to the Convention (University and Seminary Representation)

Rev. Bill Hood brings greetings from Michael Thomas, President—Concordia University Irvine.

2:28 Rev. Dr. Timothy R. Puls, Concordia Theological Seminary - Fort Wayne

Rev. Randy Fauser—Concordia Seminary

Video shown

Great opportunities for sending young men to Seminary. All tuition is covered for residential students. Only have 110 Pre-Seminary students.

2:36 Rev. Russell Sommerfeld, Assistant to the President, Concordia University, Nebraska

2:44 Rocky Mountain District Disabilities Ministry Taskforce—Rev. Michael Redeker

Developed preaching series for Epiphany along with Bible Studies

Want to raise awareness of disabilities—25% of people have some form of disability.

2:53 Hispanic Ministry Task Force, Pastor Joshua Vanderhyde, Carbondale

- Trend of growth of Hispanic population in the United States.
- Opportunity to for reaching the Hispanic population is great.
- There are many barriers, including, but not limited to: Language; and Culture
 -
- Task force has compiled a list of Hispanic Ministry Resources and it's available on the RMD website.

3:00 Gospel Gap—Rev. Dwight Hellmers, 3rd Vice President, Central Area

Ten years ago, the Convention passed a resolution regarding Gospel Gap; work has continued.

Success stories told of Gospel Gap:

- 3:00 Rev. James Maxwell, the story of Family of Faith, Falcon
- 3:09 Rev. Duane Misner—Resurrection in the City, Lutheran Church
- 3:13 Rev. Al Borchert, Holy Trinity, Riverton, had a person join SMP program, for the purpose of outreach to Mormons. Robert Bennett was ordained in the Holy Ministry and is now a full-time missionary to Mormons. His wife was called home to Jesus this past Valentine's Day. Has developed a program for lay people to talk about Jesus to their neighbors.
- 3:20 Rev. Andrew Packer—speaking for Pastor John Widmer in Utah. GGP helped finance his SMP education, funding 50% of his education. He serves the people of Moab, Utah.

Chairman of the Rocky Mountain District Board of Directors, Dwight Hellmers, recognizes the service of President Schlechte, and Mr. Kevin Grein on his retirement from LCEF. Hellmers presented them with rocks for serving the “Rocky” Mountain District.

3:28 President Schlechte thanked the delegates for the opportunity to serve the last four years.

3:29 Installation of President-elect Maxwell by Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe Jr. 2nd Vice President of the LCMS.

3:35 Installation of Vice Presidents of RMD

Rev. Jared Melius, Rev. Mark Nierman, Rev. Jason Rust, and Rev. Michael Redeker

3:37 Installation of Circuit Visitors

3:40 Installation of Secretary and Board of Directors members

3:42 Service of Remembrance for the Faithfully Departed

4:12 Closing Prayer—President Schlechte

4:13 Closing of the Convention