

53rd Convention of the Rocky Mountain District
May 29-30, 2025
Proceedings

Call to Order—Maxwell—2:46pm 5/29/2025

I. Acceptance of Convention Proceedings —2:46pm

A. Credentials Report

B. 96 pastoral / 99 lay / 6 advisor

1. Motion to accept—passed unanimously

C. Agenda—2:48pm

1. Motion to accept—passed unanimously

D. Standing Rules—2:48pm

1. Motion to accept standing rules—passed unanimously—2:53pm

E. Testing and validating the Voting procedures —2:53pm

II. District President's Report—Maxwell—3:06:pm

A. Report Attached

III. Elections—3:20pm

A. Presentation of the slate of Nominations—Escue—3:21pm

1. Motion to accept all except Synod Nominations Committee—3:29pm

a) Moved/2nd

(1) Passed Unanimously—3:31pm

B. President—Vote / Percentage

1. James Maxwell—145 / 74.74%

2. Jared Melius—49 / 25.26%

3. Result—Maxwell

C. 1st Vice President—Vote / Percentage

1. 1st Ballot

a) Dan Kletke—20 / 10%

b) Elisha Lietzau—56 / 28%

c) Jared Melius—97 / 49%

d) Mark Nierman—24 / 12%

2. 2nd Ballot

a) Elisha Lietzau—73 / 37.82%

b) Jared Melius—120 / 62.18%

3. Result—Melius

D. Regional Vice Presidents—Vote / Percentage

1. Eastern

a) 1st Ballot

(1) Daniel Kletke—51 / 26%

(2) Shawn Nettleton—15 / 8%

(3) Mark Nierman—94 / 48%

(4) Timothy Runtsch—24 / 12%

(5) Glen Schlecht—11 / 5%

b) 2nd Ballot

(1) Daniel Kletke—76 / 39.18%

- (2) **Mark Nierman—118 / 60.82%**
 - c) Result—**Nierman**
 - 2. Southern—Voice Vote of Affirmation
 - a) **Jason Rust**
 - b) Result—**Rust**
 - 3. Western—Voice Vote of Affirmation
 - a) **Michael Redeker**
 - b) Result—**Redeker**
- E. Position of Rank of Vice Presidents—Vote / Percentage**
 - 1. 1st Ballot
 - a) Nierman—74 / 38.95%
 - b) Rust—73 / 38.42%
 - c) Redeker—43 / 22.63%
 - 2. 2nd Ballot
 - a) Nierman—84 / 43.75%
 - b) **Rust—108 / 56.25%**
 - 3. 3rd Ballot
 - a) **Nierman—108 / 56.84%**
 - b) Redeker—82 / 43.16%
 - 4. Result—**2nd = Rust, 3rd = Nierman, 4th = Redeker**
- F. District Secretary—Vote / Percentage**
 - 1. 1st Ballot
 - a) **Elisha Lietzau—139 / 72.77%**
 - b) Richard von Steinman—52 / 27.23%
 - 2. Result—**Lietzau**
- G. Commission Worker—BoD—Vote / Percentage**
 - 1. 1st Ballot
 - a) Kristine Bower (E)—28 / 14.41%
 - b) **Melissa DeGroot (S)—104 / 55.03%**
 - c) T. David Lindeman (E)—32 / 16.83%
 - d) Sina Williams (C)—25 / 13.23%
 - 2. 2nd Ballot
 - a) Kristine Bower (E)—44 / 23.28%
 - b) T. David Lindeman (E)—61 / 32.28%
 - c) Sina Williams (C)—84 / 44.44%
 - 3. 3rd Ballot
 - a) T. David Lindeman (E)—77 / 40.53%
 - b) **Sina Williams (C)—113 / 59.47%**
 - 4. Result—**DeGroot, Williams**
- H. Lay Representatives—BoD—Vote / Percentage**
 - 1. 1st Ballot Central
 - a) Brian Boyle (C)—52 / 27.66%
 - b) James Greer (C)—40 / 21.28%
 - c) **Marcia Hogan (C)—96 / 51.06%**
 - d) Result—**Hogan**

2. 1st Ballot Eastern
 - a) **Kevin Grein (E)—97 / 50.52%**
 - b) Noreen Linke (E)—18 / 9.38%
 - c) Hal McNerney (E)—12 / 6.25%
 - d) Jarrod Puseman (E)—56 / 29.17%
 - e) Sharon Robinson (E)—9 / 4.69%
3. 2nd Ballot Eastern
 - a) Noreen Linke (E)—21 / 10.99%
 - b) Hal McNerney (E)—22 / 11.52%
 - c) **Jarrold Puseman (E)—97 / 50.79%**
 - d) Sharon Robinson (E)—21 / 10.99%
4. Result = **Grein, Puseman**
5. 1st Ballot Southern Acclamation
 - a) **Damon Tobias (S)**
 - b) Result = **Tobias**
6. 1st Ballot Western Acclamation Vote
 - a) **Darrell Wagner (W)**
 - b) **Russ Winterstein (W)**
7. Result—**Wagner, Winterstein**
- I. **District Nominations Committee—Vote / Percentage**
 1. 1st Ballot (CM)
 - a) **Mrs. Kristine Bower (CM) (C)—100 / 54.95%**
 - b) Mr. William Busacker (CM) (E)—82 / 45.05%
 - c) Result = **Bower**
 2. 1st Ballot (Lay) Voice Vote Acclamation
 - a) **Mrs. Alyssa Hahn (E)**
 - b) **Mrs. Mary Redeker (W)**
 - c) Result = **Hahn, Redeker**
 3. 1st Ballot (Clergy/Central)
 - a) **Rev. Jeremy Jacoby (C)—115 / 61.50%**
 - b) Rev. Roger Wohletz (C)—72 / 38.50%
 - c) Results = **Jacoby**
 4. 1st Ballot (Clergy/Southern)
 - a) Rev. Adam DeGroot (S)—67 / 35.45%
 - b) **Rev. Douglas Escue (S)—122 / 64.55%**
 - c) Result = **Escue**
- IV. Break—4:15pm
- V. Rev. Warren W. Graff—4:30
- VI. Break—5:30
- VII. Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison—7:00pm
 - A. Report Attached
- VIII. Closing Prayer/Adjourn for the day—8:22pm

- IX. Opening Prayer—Maxwell—8:03am—5/30/2025**
- X. Credentials Committee Report—8:04am**
- A. 97—pastoral/ 98—lay/ 7advisory
 - B. Motion passed to accept — 8:10am
 - C. Motion to accept the minutes from yesterday — passed 8:11am
 - D. Motion to ratify the slate of Circuit Visitors
 - 1. Moved/2nd
 - 2. **passed—8:12am**
- XI. Floor Committees—8:15am**
- A. **2025-1—02A—To Utilize Regional Strategic Teams to Assist Planting Congregations in the Rocky Mountain District**
 - 1. Moved for Adoption—8:17am
 - a) No Discussion
 - 2. **Vote of Acclamation passed — 8:18am**
 - B. **2025-1-03—To Retire the Circuit-Based Mission Model (Gospel Gap Paradigm)**
 - 1. Moved for Adoption—8:20am
 - a) No Discussion
 - 2. **Vote of Acclamation passed — 8:22am**
 - C. **2025-1—04A—To Support Rural Congregations Through District Mission Resources**
 - 1. Moved for Adoption—8:26am
 - a) No Discussion
 - 2. **Vote of Acclamation passed — 8:28am**
- XII. Elections of Synod Nominating Committee—8:30am**
- A. Presentation of Slate
 - 1. Approved 8:33am
 - B. 1st Ballot for Delegate
 - 1. E. Christian Kopff—49 / 28.32%
 - 2. Noreen Linke—74 / 42.77%
 - 3. Chuck Morse—50 / 28.90%
 - C. 2nd Ballot for Delegate
 - 1. Noreen Linke—104 / 60.12%
 - 2. Chuck Morse—69 / 39.88%
 - 3. Result—Linke
 - D. 1st Ballot for Alternate
 - 1. E. Christian Kopff—68 / 38.20%
 - 2. Chuck Morse—110 / 61.80%
 - E. Result—Morse
 - F. Move to make all elections unanimous/2nd
 - 1. **Vote of Acclamation passed 8:40**
- XIII. Motion to amend the orders of the day—Graff 8:45am**
- A. Moved for adoption
 - 1. Passed
- XIV. Break — 9:46am**
- XV. Special Guests—10:01am**
- A. Bil Hood, Concordia University-Irvine, CA; Sean Kowal, Concordia Plan Services; Rev. Robert Rahn, Lutheran Heritage Foundation; Dr. Bull, Concordia University-Nebraska

XVI. Floor Committee—10:20am

A. 2025-2-03A—To Amend Bylaws 3.03 Term of Office

1. Moved for adoption
2. Discussion
 - a) Amendment to strike the final resolved—moved/2nd
 - (1) Motion to withdraw amendment by the individual who moved—moved/2nd
 - (a) Discussion
 - (b) Voice Acclamation passed—Amendment removed
 - b) Amendment to first resolved—moved/2nd
 - (1) 1st resolved—remove “all term limits” and replace with “four three-year limits”
 - (a) Discussion
 - (b) Call to question
 - i) yes—54 / 29.19%
 - ii) no—131 / 70.81%
 - iii) Result— Amendment fails
 - c) Call to question—10:48am
 - (1) Cease debate
 - (a) yes—147 / 80.33%
 - (b) no—
 - (c) Result—Question called
 - (2) Vote
 - (a) Yes—97 / 52.72%
 - (b) no—87 / 47.28%
 - (c) Result— Motion passed

B. 2025-2-10—To delegate Circuit Realigning Authority to the Board of Directors

1. Moved/2nd
2. Discussion
 - a) Vote
 - (1) yes—140 / 80%
 - (2) no—35 / 20%
 - (3) Result—Motion passes

C. 2025-1-01A—To Support a Mission Effort in Utah for the Next Triennium

1. Revision 4th Whereas —removed the words “Utah Circuit” and replace with “the congregations in Utah”
2. Moved for adoption
 - a) Discussion
 - b) Vote of Acclamation—passed

D. Omnibus Resolution A

1. Revision of 2015-1-05 to 2025-1-05, 2015-1-07 to 2025-1-07, and 2015-1-08 to 2025-1-08
2. Move for adoption
 - a) Discussion
 - (1) Motion to remove 2025-2-06 from omnibus and brought to the floor for discussion
 - (a) Moved/2nd
 - (b) Vote of Acclamation
 - i) Result—failed

- b) Motion to remove 2025-1-05,07,08
 - (1) Moved/no 2nd
 - c) Vote of Acclamation
 - (1) Result—Omnibus A passes
 - E. Omnibus Resolution B
 - 1. Move for adoption
 - a) Discussion
 - (1) Vote of Acclamation
 - (2) Result Omnibus Resolution B fails
 - F. 2025-2-08—To Support International Mission and Church Relations
 - 1. Moved and 2nd from the floor
 - a) Discussion
 - (1) Vote of Acclamation
 - (2) Result motion fails
- XVII. Motion to amend the orders of the day to break at 11:46am and return at 1pm
 - A. Passed
- XVIII. Special Guests—Included in the Agenda—1:00pm
- XIX. Floor Committees—2:43pm
 - A. 2025-2-02A—To Uphold the Scriptural Teaching of “Generations/Lineages”; To Reject the Modernistic Teaching of “Races”
 - 1. Move for Adoption
 - 2. Discussion
 - a) Amendment to and the following as the 2nd to last *Resolved*
 - (1) Be it resolved that the Rocky Mountain District acknowledge and celebrate all peoples which comprise those who walk in the Christian Faith as children of God; rejoicing in the unique and beautiful gifts the Holy Spirit bestows to share the Gospel message with those of every nation.
 - (2) Moved/2nd
 - (3) Call to Question on Amendment
 - (a) yes—147 / 94.23%
 - (b) no—9 / 5.77%
 - (c) Result—Call to question
 - (4) Vote on Amendment
 - (a) yes—44
 - (b) no—113
 - (c) Result—Amendment fails
 - b) Call to Question on Overture
 - (1) Result—Discussion ended
 - (2) Vote
 - (a) yes—145 / 91.19%
 - (b) no—14 / 8.81%
 - (c) Result—Resolution passes

- B. 2025-2-09A—To Open Access to the Lutheran Confessions**
 - 1. Moved for adoption**
 - a) Discussion**
 - (1) Amendment**
 - (a)** Strike the first resolved and change final resolved to “That the Rocky Mountain District memorialize Synod in convention to release the Reader’s Edition of the Book of Concord text into the public domain.”
 - i) Vote on Amendment**
 - (1)** yes—125
 - (2)** no—25
 - (3)** Result—Amendment passes
 - (2) Vote on the amended resolution**
 - (a)** yes—122 / 75.17%
 - (b)** no—37 / 24.83%
 - (c)** Result—Motion passes
- XX. Credentials Committee Final Report—3:19pm**
 - A. 89 pastoral / 89 lay / 7 advisory**
 - 1. Passed/accepted**
- XXI. Installation of newly elected—3:20**
 - A. James Maxwell—3:20pm**
 - B. Vice Presidents—3:25pm**
 - C. Circuit Visitors—3:27pm**
 - D. Secretary and BoD—3:30pm**
- XXII. Service of Remembrance—3:40pm**
- XXIII. Closing of the Convention—4:30pm**