



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA SOUTH

Through my window

Transitions



By Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy
District President

This is my final “Through My Window” article as Minnesota South District president. I’ve served for two terms and will retire Aug. 31.

Our convention in June elected the Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford to serve as our new district president. I’ve already prayed for him often as he transitions from parish ministry to that of ecclesiastical supervision. In his first year, he will no doubt be sucking on the proverbial firehose. I hope you will pray for him and encourage him, too, as he begins his service on Sept. 1.

Transition is what our new president and I have in common. We will both be living in the middle of in-between for a time,

Pastor Nadasdy gave a farewell address to the assembled delegates and guests at the district convention at Concordia University, St. Paul, in June.

repositioning, as they call it today. No doubt you’ve experienced something of this in your life. Truthfully, life is a series of transitions, and it seems to me that what matters most in a transition is to make the most of what matters.

Several years ago a very wise 14-year old, Jason Lehman, wrote a little poem titled “Present Tense,” which reads in part:

I was 20,
But it was 30 I wanted,
To be mature
And sophisticated.
I was middle-aged,
But it was 20 I wanted,
The youth
And the free spirit.
I was retired,
But it was middle age I wanted.
The presence of mind
Without limitations.
My life was over,
But I never got what I wanted.

(Chicago Tribune, Feb. 14, 1989)

Even in transition, maybe especially in transition, it is important to live in the present tense. Otherwise, we will miss what the Lord is doing right now with His grace along the way. Otherwise, we will miss the relationships which bless us so richly. Getting from here to there doesn’t mean we leave people or values

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Delegates elect Woodford new president

Under the theme “Chosen to Proclaim” from 1 Peter 2, the 78th Convention of the Minnesota South District was held June 21-23 at Concordia University, St. Paul.

With more than 340 voting delegates in attendance as well as numerous advisory delegates and special guests, the convention elected officers and passed a number of resolutions, as well as engaged in Bible study, worship and fellowship.

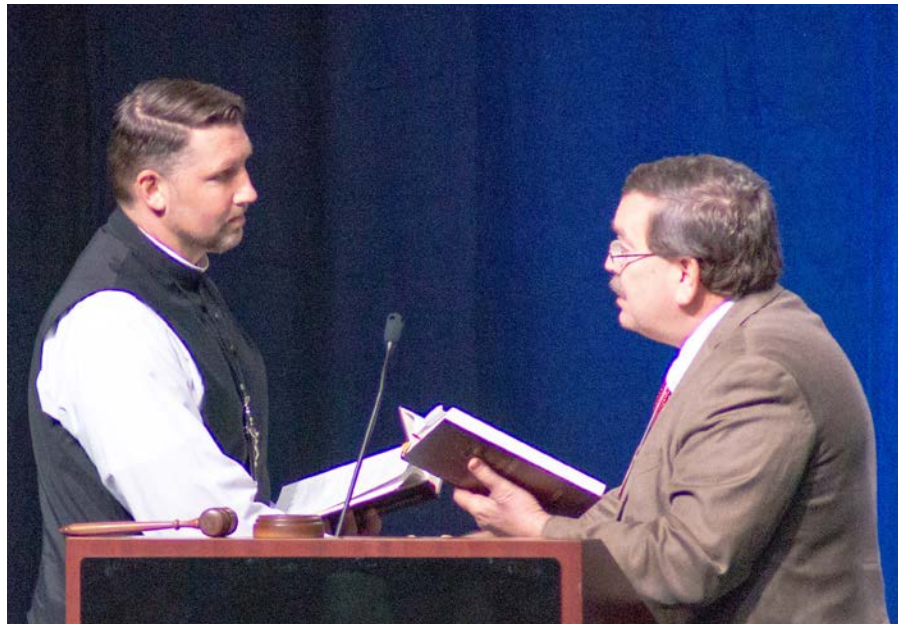
Most prominent of the elections was that of the new district president, as Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy indicated that he planned to retire after his second three-year term. On the second ballot, Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford of Zion, Mayer, was elected with 53.7 percent of the vote.

Vice-presidents elected were:

- ▶ First vice-president
Rev. David Mumme
Trinity, Waterville
- ▶ Second vice-president
Rev. Tom Evans
Emanuel, Inver Grove Heights
- ▶ Third vice-president
Rev. Harold Storm
St. John, Gaylord
- ▶ Fourth vice-president
Rev. Dr. Brent Parrish
Immanuel Fish Lake, Prior Lake

Rev. Tom Stoebig, senior pastor of Beautiful Savior, Plymouth, served as convention chaplain and his congregation hosted the opening communion service on June 21.

Dr. Phillip Johnson, district assistant to the president for Mission Formation, served as Bible study leader and Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz, Lutheran Hour Speaker emeritus and executive director of the newly formed Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C., served as essayist.



Rev. Dr. Herb Mueller, LCMS first vice-president, installed Minnesota South District President Elect Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford at the close of convention.

Significant resolutions passed at the convention include the following:

Resolution 1-04

To Expand Evangelistic Outreach on College Campuses: Continues the work begun at the 2012 district convention by encouraging more congregations near colleges to identify someone who can serve as evangelist in their settings (there are already three such evangelists in the district). The resolution also encourages the district's campus ministry subcommittee to put together trainings and conferences to support this ministry.

Resolution 3-03

To Establish a Task Force to Assess Congregational Bible Study: Calls for the District to hold a Bible study training event and establish a task force to assess the number of youth and adult Bible studies; survey factors relating to declining Bible study attendance; survey best practices in

Bible study across the district; report findings and make recommendations to the Congregational Mission Formation committee to increase Bible study attendance; and suggest resources for Bible study topics.

Resolution 3-12

To Establish a Committee for Excellence in Christian Education: Initiates a new committee that will enhance the quality of Christian schools and early childhood centers by studying and identifying key factors in leadership, finances, and standards of excellence.

Resolution 4-02

To Make the To All Generations (TAG) Fund a Permanent Designated Restricted Account: Ensures that donors to the MNS District will be able to designate funds to support Christian education grants, so that as long as funds are available, congregations and schools can apply for such grants.

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Convention recap

Convention delegates at the LWML Minnesota South District Convention June 29-30 in Mankato elected the following officers for the 2018-20 Biennium:

- ▶ **President:** Deb Vinkemeier
- ▶ **VP Of Gospel Outreach:** Carol Hubert
- ▶ **VP Of Communication:** Shirley Volk
- ▶ **Recording Secretary:** Mary Kay Mages
- ▶ **Financial Secretary:** Irene Mensing
- ▶ **Pastoral Counselors:**
 - Rev. William G. Sabol
 - Rev. Francis T. Green

Nominating Committee

- ▶ Joanne Rosenfeld (chairman)
- ▶ Julie Ebert
- ▶ Audrey Oehlke
- ▶ Chyeral Stohlmann
- ▶ Elaine Taggatz

These newly elected officers join their fellow elected district board members:

- ▶ **VP of Christian Life:** Debi Mahoney
- ▶ **VP of Human Care:** Pamela Hunter
- ▶ **VP of Servant Resources:** Kathy Roslansky
- ▶ **Treasurer, Memorials and Bequests:** Darlene Fretham
- ▶ **Pastoral counselors:**
 - Rev. Eric Nelson
 - Rev. Loel Wessel

We thank our Lord and Savior for leading these faithful servants to say “yes” to “Serve the Lord with Gladness,” and we pray God’s greatest blessings on their work in office, serving you and serving their Lord and helping to fulfill the Great Commission.



Mission Grants

Twenty-one Mission Grant proposals were presented to the delegates and other voting members of the LWML Minnesota South District convention. Of those presented, 13 were selected. The following are the grants to be fulfilled during the 2018-20 Biennium:

- ▶ The Dwelling Place Domestic Violence Program, \$15,000
- ▶ Lutheran High School Education Tuition Assistance, \$54,000
- ▶ LCMS Missionary Support, \$10,000
- ▶ Minnesota South District Aid Scholarships, \$35,000
- ▶ Camp Courage—A Place of Hope and Healing, \$4,000
- ▶ Camp Omega – Rooted • Celebrating • Growing, \$25,000
- ▶ Two MN South Congregations Connecting Ethnic Neighbors (POBLO), \$10,000
- ▶ Trinity HOPE, \$5,000
- ▶ The Lydia Project, \$10,000
- ▶ Lutherans for Life Post-Abortion Crisis Hotline Expansion, \$7,500
- ▶ Seminary Education for New Pastors in South Sudan (LHF), \$7,500
- ▶ New Beginnings for Children with Learning Needs (LSEM), \$10,000
- ▶ Concordia Seminary—International Graduate School Students Support (partial grant amount, original grant request was for \$6,500), \$5,750



The mite goal for 2018-20 is \$265,000, of which \$198,750 will be available for the district Mission Grants and \$66,250 will be sent to national LWML to fulfill its grant goal. To God be the glory!

CONVENTION

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Resolution 6-02

To encourage Elected Minnesota Leaders to Enact Education Funding Policy Changes to Reflect the Trinity Lutheran Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) Ruling: Calls on the State of Minnesota to ensure that the same per-dollar funding follows students to religious schools as those who attend non-religious schools, but in a way that does not allow “a state to inappropriately assert its influence in the operation of religious schools.”

President Elect Woodford and the other elected officers, board members and circuit visitors were all installed at the end of the convention. Woodford begins his term when the new triennium begins on Sept. 1.

Resolution 6-04

To Memorialize the LCMS to Delineate its Position on Commercial Surrogacy: Calls for the LCMS President to study the practice of commercial surrogacy and articulate an official position on this issue.

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WANTED: Gathering volunteers

Are you interested in volunteering in some capacity for the 2019 LCMS Youth Gathering?

We are looking for people in the broader Twin Cities area (congregations in the Minnesota South and North districts, and South and North Wisconsin districts) who are willing to serve before, during and after the Gathering.

If you are interested in being a volunteer, please visit mnsdistrict.org/nyg and follow the link to enter your



contact information. We will keep you up-to-date with the volunteer timelines, local events and application process.

MESSAGE

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or callings in our dust. The time between the chapters of our lives matters. In such times God grows our capacity for prayer, courage, perseverance and hope.

As I transition into retirement, I have some idea of what it might look like, but most of it is hazy. No doubt the same is true for Pastor Woodford as he takes on his new calling. Yet to live in the mist for a while, or the fog, or the mystery

of things unknown, is not a bad thing. Wanderings, as in Israel’s transition to the Promised Land, do have their place in God’s plan for us. We do well to stay in the moment even when walking deserts or bridges.

Life here, after all, in all of its sad and joyous chapters, is a transition.

“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.”

— 1 COR. 13:12 NKJV

Send submissions for the district supplement to:

Billy Schultz

► billy.schultz@mnsdistrict.org

► 14301 Grand Ave. South
Burnsville, MN 55306-5707

Photos sent by email should be in high resolution, at least 300 dpi.



DISTRICT OFFICE

► 14301 Grand Ave. South
Burnsville, MN 55306

► 952-435-2550

► mnsdistrict.org

Congregation mission receipts

For the period ending June 30, 2018

Actual receipts	\$136,477
Budget receipts	\$200,000
Over (under) amount	\$(63,523)

Year-to-date receipts

Actual receipts	\$1,026,562
Budget receipts	\$1,200,000
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$(173,438)

Use of mission receipts (YTD-year to date)

50% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$386,552
100% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$39,868
50% for district operations (YTD)	\$386,552
100% for district operations (YTD)	\$213,590
Total receipts	\$1,026,562

Mission receipts—2018 vs. 2017

Mission receipts — YTD 2018	\$1,026,562
Mission receipts — YTD 2017	\$1,105,011
Over (under) last year	\$(78,449)
2018 congregational receipts budgeted at \$2,400,000	

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT LCEF

May 2018

New investments	\$1,787,075
Withdrawals	\$1,231,877
Net increase (decrease)	\$555,198

Year-to-date July 1, 2017–May 31, 2018

New investments	\$16,759,126
Withdrawals	\$16,880,579
Net increase (decrease)	\$(121,453)