



Dear Fellow Redeemed

The theme of the July 14-19, 2007 63rd regular Convention of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod was “**ONE Message – Christ.**” Philippians 2:10 says “that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth ... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.” Clear confession of God’s grace for us in Jesus Christ has never been more critical than it is today in our pluralistic and tolerant society. A phrase often heard at the Convention was “**His Love Is Here For You.**” May we as Christians and in our congregations share “Christ – His Love Is Here For You!”

There were several **highlights of the Convention.** The **worship experiences** were

uplifting and inspiring! **Elections** were the first order of business. President **Gerald B. Kieschnick** was re-elected President of Synod. Re-elected as First Vice-President of Synod is Rev. **William R. Diekelman.** Michigan’s own Rev. **Paul L. Maier** was re-elected Second Vice-President! Rev. John C. Wohlrabe was elected Third Vice-President. Rev. **Dean W. Nadasdy** was re-elected Fourth Vice-President and Rev. **David D. Buegler** was re-elected Fifth Vice-President. Rev. Raymond L. Hartwig was re-elected as Secretary of Synod and Dr. Thomas W. Kuchta was re-elected as Vice-President/Finance. A significant action of the Convention was the reception of the American Association of Lutheran Churches into **church fellowship** with the Missouri Synod.

A point of emphasis at the Convention, and also in our Michigan District, is recognition of the need for and the support of **Professional Church Workers.** With mission expansion as well as increasing retirements, the need is critical. We rejoice in the newly placed candidates and vicars in the Michigan District.

In the same vein, please note our **Michigan District Professional Church Worker Conference** scheduled on **September 24-26** at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids. There has not been such a gathering of all the Professional Church Workers in the Michigan District since 1989!

The time is right for us to gather as one to celebrate our unity and to build relationships as we work together as His team. Please support and encourage your congregation’s staff by enabling their participation in this gathering. Please, also include it in your prayers.

The Synodical Convention also focused on the **Boards of Regents** of our Concordia Universities and Seminaries by expanding those boards. Attention was also given to

“One Message – Christ! His Love Is Here For You!”

a new approach in providing pastors by adopting the **Specific Ministry Pastoral Program.** This has great possibilities for expanding the number of appropriately prepared pastors who can be called and ordained for service in the church.

The **Michigan District delegates** at the Synodical Convention did a wonderful job! We gathered twice for breakfast and once for dinner to reflect on Convention happenings and look ahead. The commitment, spirit, and the hard work of our Michigan District delegates should make you proud! Please receive them in anticipation of the good news they will be sharing.

Other resolutions addressed issues of **prayer in public events/gatherings.** A study is called for regarding the natural knowledge of God and how this relates to worship and witness in such public

events/gatherings. Convention resolutions were passed that encouraged a **stewardship renaissance** within the LCMS. The Convention also focused upon issues of **human care, life issues,** and **immigration** ministry.

Finally, perhaps one of the most far reaching resolutions passed enables the calling of a special Constitutional Convention in 2009. It has been commended into the hands of the President of the Synod and the Council of Presidents to study in earnest the possibility of calling for such a **Constitutional Convention.** You will be kept informed of this matter. The purpose of such a Convention would be to enable us to function more effectively as 35 Districts in concert as Synod. May God bless and guide such deliberations and planning.

As we process the outcomes of this positive convention and anticipate action, thank you for your partnership in the mission and ministry of our Lord Jesus. May we have an ever-deepening sense of fellowship with our Lord and one another that we might evermore effectively share our “ONE message – Christ” with the world that all may know that “**His Love Is Here For You.**” God bless us to that end.

In Him with you,
C. William Hoesman