

AFLC Conference Journal - Thursday June 22, 2006, 9:00am

Devotions were led by Pastor Richard Carr, Minneapolis, MN. Deuteronomy 1:21-33  
Singing "Soldiers of Christ, Arise"

The report of the Chairman of the Evangelism Commission was presented by Rev.  
Michael Brandt, Sioux Falls, SD.  
**MSC to receive**

The report of the Director of Evangelism was presented by Rev. Jim Ramussen, Maple  
Grove, MN.  
**MSC to receive**

Election results:

Co-ordinating Committee Layman 5yr term

125	*Brad Severson
24	Lowell Watt
14	Chris Bunn

Co-ordinating Committee Pastor 5-yr term

114	*Gary Jorgenson
54	Dale Finstrom
23	Rich Carr

\* Elected

The report of Partners in Missions Outreach was presented by Mr. Ken Sletten, Duluth,  
MN.  
**MSC to receive**

The report of the Home Mission Committee Chairman was presented by Rev. Richard  
Long, Arlington, WA.  
**MSC to receive**

The report of the Free Lutheran Association of Pilot Supporters was presented by Mr.  
Lavon Bohling, New Hope, MN. The five year fundraising program for the Cherokee Six  
is complete and the plane is paid for as of June 10.  
**MSC to receive**

The report of the Women's Missionary Federation was presented by Mrs. Cheryl  
Skordahl, St. Michael, MN.  
**MSC to receive**

recess

COMMITTEE #3 MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

Committee Members: Art Wilson, Pittsburgh, PA (Chairman); Eldon Hesterberg, Gifford, IL; Larry Hefty, Kalispell, MT; Pastor Joseph Schultz, Buckley, WA; Pastor Herb Hoff, Salinas, CA (Secretary); Mark Gustafson, Beulah, ND.

#### **GENERAL RESOLUTIONS:**

1. WHEREAS, the Lord of the harvest continues to call laborers into His harvest, BE IT RESOLVED, that we continually give thanks to God and pray for all who have responded to His call to labor in His harvest, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we pray that many more believers will heed the call of the Lord to enter into His harvest work, both local and distant, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage closer relationships between the missionaries of the AFLC (both World and Home) and the congregations and members of the Association, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we would seek a greater sense of partnership through prayer, conversation, visitation and financial support for the worldwide mission effort of the AFLC.

**MSC** to adopt

#### **WORLD MISSIONS:**

1. WHEREAS, it seems that a fresh breath of God's Spirit is birthing a renewed passion for World Missions in the AFLC, and WHEREAS, the AFLC World Missions Committee has stepped out in faith to call Pastor Del Palmer as the full time Director of World Missions for the AFLC to help support this renewed passion, BE IT RESOLVED, that we give thanks to the Lord of the harvest because He continues to entrust to us His call to faithfulness and fruitfulness, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage and challenge the congregations and members of the Association to listen for ways God may be calling them to support and encourage our brothers and sisters as they minister in distant lands.

**MSC** to adopt

2. WHEREAS, 80% of full-time missionaries have had some type of "short-term" missionary experience in preparation for that full-time call, and WHEREAS, the Association Bible School encourages this possibility during the yearly five-day Missions Conference, and during the third year of practical study at AFLBS through the MTI, therefore BE IT RESOLVED, that we make known the opportunities God has for all in personal involvement with the world-wide mission of God, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we prayerfully support those areas where God's people are challenged with the possibility that He is calling them to full-time mission.

**MS** to adopt

Pastor Gerald Peterson, Oklahoma City, OK, spoke about his son's experience during the school's missions week.

**Carried**

3. WHEREAS, God has used His faithful servants to minister the truth of His kingdom and power of His love,  
BE IT RESOLVED, that we give thanks to God for those faithful servants who have responded to His call, served in His kingdom ministry, and now rest from their labors. Especially and with thanks we give praise to God for the years of faithful service of Carolyn Dyrud in the mission field of Brazil and Pastor Michael Crowell founder of the Mission Aviation Training Academy.

**MSC** to adopt

4. WHEREAS, the need remains for God's servants to be trained in the Word of God, and that need is both far and near, and  
WHEREAS, modern technology will allow information and training and instruction to go far beyond the physical presence of a teacher, therefore  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the AFLC will seek ways to promote distance learning and education through AFLTS and the use of the internet through which the far ends of the world may be reached, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the AFLC will seek to send teachers to locations where their gifts can be used effectively.

Pastor Mark Olson, Tioga, ND, said that a lot more work needs to be done and moved to amend:

4. WHEREAS, the need remains for God's servants to be trained in the Word of God, and that need is both far and near, and  
WHEREAS, modern technology will allow information and training and instruction to go far beyond the physical presence of a teacher, therefore  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the AFLC will seek ways to promote distance learning and education ~~through AFLTS and the use of the internet~~ through which the far ends of the world may be reached, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the AFLC will seek to send teachers to locations where their gifts can be used effectively.

Mr. Jim Fink, Monterrey CA, Spoke about the appropriateness of the AFLTS and internet use

Pastor Olson said that those areas would be involved in some way or another, but the school board and missions committee would rather not specify at this point.

Pastor David Johnson, Silver Hill, AL, said that distance learning is connecting people in remote places to provide instruction, that sending teachers is not distance learning.

Pastor Karl Anderson, Argyle, MN, said that distance learning does not provide the same atmosphere that hands on instruction by spiritually minded instructors provides.

Mrs. Ruth Engman, Escanaba, MI, said that a school in Hancock, MI

Pastor Hoff, Salinas, CA, said that the amendment opens up opportunities.

Dr. Dan Mundfrom, Greeley, Co, spoke in favor of the amendment. The discussion between schools and missions have come along very far yet. AFLTS will not be that involved.

Pastor Del Palmer, Shakopee, MN, said that the internet is only a small part of what they would like to do.

Dr. Robert Kohl, Brookings, SD, spoke in favor of the amendment.

**Amendment Carried**

Amended resolution **carried**.

**ESTABLISHED MISSIONS:**

5. WHEREAS, the desire of the AFLC is to encourage the nationalization of world mission churches, and  
WHEREAS, this can lead to times of struggle for both the national church and the missionaries, therefore  
BE IT RESOLVED, that we prayerfully stand with both missionaries and local leadership during a time of transfer of leadership to the national church bodies.

**MSC** to adopt

**NEWER MISSIONS:**

6. WHEREAS, two new families have responded to the call of God to serve the AFLC as missionaries to the world, and  
WHEREAS, two new families have been accepted as AFLC World Missions candidates, and  
WHEREAS, two individuals have been accepted by the AFLC World Missions as Short Term Assistants, therefore  
BE IT RESOLVED, that we give thanks to God for the commissioning of Tomasz and Miriam Chmiel to minister with the EEMN in the Ukraine, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we give thanks to God for the commissioning of Nate and Rhoda Jore to minister in Uganda, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we join with Andy & Monica Coyle and Kevin & Pam Olson as they seek the clear leading of God in their near and distant futures, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we pray for Ben Jore and Jesse Long as they minister as short term missionary assistants, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we would seek a greater sense of partnership with these families and individuals through prayer, conversation, visitation and financial support.

**MSC** to adopt

**BUDGET**

7. WHEREAS, the World Mission Committee has requested \$287,808 for field/expense and \$407,198 for World Mission Personal Support,  
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that we accept the recommendations of the Budget Analysis Committee.

**MS** to adopt

Pastor Del Palmer, Shakopee, MN, explained that the field/expense line also refers to some administrative expenses at the home office.

**Carried**

## **HOME MISSIONS:**

1. WHEREAS, there are many opportunities for the expansion of ministry in the United States, and

WHEREAS, available resources do not allow us to follow up simultaneously on all these opportunities, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Home Missions Committee as well as the congregations and members of the Association pray for guidance, wisdom and faithfulness in using the available resources in the best possible way, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we give thanks to God for His making available these opportunities for ministry.

**MSC to adopt**

2. WHEREAS, the Builders Fellowship has ministered in many areas of our country, saving congregations hundreds of thousands of dollars in expenses, and

WHEREAS, the Builders Fellowship has freely facilitated thousands of hours of loving labor, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we give thanks and praise to God for the way He has used the Builders Fellowship in the work of home missions.

**MSC to adopt**

## **BUDGET**

3. WHEREAS, the Home Missions Committee has requested a budget of \$316,413, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we accept the recommendations of the Budget Analysis Committee.

**MSC to adopt**

## **EVANGELISM:**

1. WHEREAS, the Evangelism Ministry of the AFLC has touched 75% of the congregations through the personal presence of Pastor Jim Rasmussen, and

WHEREAS, training tools such as “Friend to Friend” and “Sharing Jesus Without Fear” have proved to be effective tools for training believers,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the AFLC give thanks to God for the ministry of the Evangelism Department, especially remembering Pastor Rasmussen during the many hours and miles he is away from home and for his effectiveness in helping believers share their faith in Jesus.

**MS to adopt**

Pastor Wade Mobley, Sioux Falls, SD thanked the committee for the Rekindling the Fire gatherings.

**Carried.**

Mr. Loren Tungseth, Fergus Falls, MN read the minutes of the Missions' Corporation Annual Meeting.

**MSC to adopt**

Dr. John Eidsmoe, AL, spoke a word of greeting from Lutherans for Life.

Recess

WHEREAS, the freedom of religious expression for military chaplains is currently at risk by recent directives within the United States Air Force and United States Navy  
BE IT RESOLVED, that we stand with our endorsing agency, the Commission on Chaplains of the National Association of Evangelicals in its support of legal challenges to these affronts on religious freedom of the military chaplaincy.

Thursday, June 22, 2006 1:30pm

Devotions were led by Rev. Thomas Chmiel, Czech Republic. From Mark 6:34, Jesus had compassion on the multitudes. What is your motivation when you share the good news? Is it because you are a pastor? Jesus was motivated by compassion.

**Report of the Credentials Committee**

Pastors	96
Visiting Pastors	3
Lay members	185
Lay visitors	<u>3</u>
Total	287

Report of the Nominating Committee

Commission on Evangelism - Pastor, 5-year term

Rev. Tim Johnson, Fertile, MN

Rev. Mike Burke, Ishpeming, MI

**MSC** nominations cease, balloting followed

2007 Committee # 3 – Missions & Evangelism

Mr. Bill Buck, Sinai, SD

Pastor Roger David, Armington, IL

Mr. Dale Manternach, Sioux Falls, SD

Rev. Bruce Peterson, Minneapolis, MN

Rev. Don Richman, Bloomington, MN

**MSC** nominations cease and to elect

The report of the Chairman of the Board of Publications and Parish Education was presented by Rev. Martin Horn, Kenyon, MN.

**MSC** to receive.

The report of the Director of Parish Education was presented by Mrs. Marian Christopherson, Crystal, MN.

**MSC** to receive.

Commission on Evangelism - Pastor, 5-year term

111 \* Rev. Tim Johnson, Fertile, MN

15 Rev. Mike Burke, Ishpeming, MI

\* elected

The report of the Chairman of the Youth Board was presented by Mr. Eric Christensen, Shakopee, MN.

**MSC** to receive.

The report of Free Lutheran Youth was presented by Mr. Eric Christensen, Shakopee, MN.

**MSC** to receive.

The report of the Youth Ministries Director was presented by Rev. Kevin Olson, Savage, MN.

**MSC** to receive.

#### Committee #4 – PUBLICATIONS, PARISH EDUCATION, & YOUTH WORK

Committee Members: Pastor Lyndon Korhonen, Cokato, MN, Scott Erickson, Badger, MN, Pastor Richard Larson, Fairbury, NE, Dean Eichhorst, Shakopee, MN, Bill Fish, Everett, WA.

#### Parish Education

1. WHEREAS, the preschool curriculum was finished and sent to press, and WHEREAS, material has been reprinted,  
BE IT RESOLVED, we thank God for these accomplishments.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we thank congregations and individuals that contributed through prayer, time, talents, and financial gifts.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as persons and congregations plan their giving, they would remember the Parish Education needs.

**MSC** to adopt.

2. WHEREAS, Pastor Martin Horn has served 10 years on the Parish Education Board and is not eligible for re-election, and  
WHEREAS, the Dan Giles family have translated some of the Sunday School material into Spanish, and  
WHEREAS, the Parish Education staff and board continue to provide faithful service to our AFLC,  
BE IT RESOLVED, that we give thanks to God for each of them.

**MSC** to adopt.

3. BE IT RESOLVED, that we thank Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for funding a large portion of Volume III in the AFLC Heritage Series, *They Lived in the Power of God*.

**MSC** to adopt.

4. BE IT RESOLVED, that we encourage Parish Education to begin the revision process of AFLC confirmation material.

**MS** to adopt.

Mr. Jim Fink, Monterrey, CA, asked how will the confirmation material be revised? Rev. Martin Horn, Kenyon, MN said that a new curriculum is being developed rather than a revision.

Rev. Horn **moved** to amend

4. BE IT RESOLVED, that we encourage Parish Education to begin the *development* ~~revision process~~ of AFLC confirmation material.

**Second Amendment carried**  
Amended resolution **carried**.

5. BE IT RESOLVED, that we approve the Budget Analysis Committee recommendation for Parish Education of \$107,052.  
**MSC** to adopt.

#### YOUTH MINISTRIES

1. WHEREAS, we are thankful to God for supplying the funds to keep our Youth Director full time,  
BE IT RESOLVED, that we encourage continued prayers and financial gifts.  
**MSC** to adopt.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, we unite in prayer for the July 10-15 FLY Boot Camp, and student mission trips at this time.  
**MS** to adopt.  
Pastor Steve Snipstead asked prayer for his daughter and her friend who travel to Mazatlan next week.  
**Carried**

3. WHEREAS, Tara Hill faithfully served as Administration Assistant for 6 years, and WHEREAS, Jeremy Larson has served 10 years on the Youth Board and is not eligible for re-election,  
BE IT RESOLVED, we give thanks to God for each of them.  
**MSC** to adopt.

4. BE IT RESOLVED, that we give praise to God for the hearts and lives that were changed through the 2005 FLY convention, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we pray for the 2007 FLY convention and all those involved.  
**MSC** to adopt.

5. WHEREAS, our youth are under spiritual siege as shown by the Barna survey,  
BE IT RESOLVED, that we have Kevin Olson lead us in prayer for youth and their families at this time.  
**MSC** to adopt.  
Pastor Kevin Olson, Youth Ministries Director, led the conference in prayer.

6. BE IT RESOLVED, that we approve the Budget Analysis Committee recommendation of \$73,114.  
**MSC** to adopt.

Additional resolutions  
Parish Education  
Rev. John Mundfrom, Eugene, OR, **moved**

6. WHEREAS the current supply of Luther's Small Catechism Explained is almost depleted,  
BE IT RESOLVED, that we pray for individuals and congregations to give financially so that the revised catechism can be reprinted as soon as possible.

**Second**

Pastor Mundfrom spoke for the resolution reminding us that the supply will be exhausted this fall.

Mrs. Barb Obsitos, Kirkland, WA spoke asking the amount needed.

Pastor Horn said that 5000 copies would cost \$20000.

**Carried**

Youth Work

Pastor Jason Holt **moved**

7. Whereas we praise the Lord for His leading people to work with youth in our congregations, and  
Whereas our youth workers face many challenges in seeking to point students to Jesus,  
Be it resolved that we encourage congregations to seek ways to support their youth workers involvement with youth ministry training options including the annual AFLC Youth Workers Retreat.

**Second**

Mr. Eric Christensen spoke for the resolution and suggested that congregations budget youth worker training.

**Carried**

Rev. Wade Mobley, Sioux Falls, SD **moved**

Be it resolved that we thank Kevin and Pam Olson and family for their faithful service to the AFLC as youth ministry director

Be it further resolved that we stop at this time to ask for God's direction and provision for their future calling.

**Second Carried**

Rev. Michael Brandt led the conference in prayer for the Olson's.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Board of Publications & Parish Education - Pastor, 5-year term

Rev. Les Johnson, Wilson, WI

Rev. Jon Benson, Upsala, MN

**MSC** nominations cease, balloting followed.

Youth Board - Layman, 5-year term

Mr. Jordan Langness, Brooklyn Center, MN

Miss Kayla Russum, Lake Stevens, WA

**MSC** nominations cease, balloting followed.

Committee #4 – Publications, Parish Education, & Youth

Mr. Jon Dryburgh, Grafton, ND

Mrs. Solveig Hjermstad, Bruce, SD  
Rev. Steve Mundfrom, Arlington, SD  
Mrs. Karina Olson, Eden Prairie, MN  
Mrs. Ruth Peterson, Sioux Falls, SD

MSC nominations cease and to elect.

The report of the Stewardship Board was presented by Rev. Greg Schram, Thief River Falls, MN. Correction: Associate Advocate should read "Association Advocate."  
**MSC to receive.**

The report of the AFLC Pension Board was presented by Rev. Larry Haagenson, Loveland, CO.  
**MSC to receive.**

Election results:

Board of Publications & Parish Education - Pastor, 5-year term

95 \*Rev. Les Johnson, Wilson, WI

48 Rev. Jon Benson, Upsala, MN

\*elected

#### COMMITTEE #5 STEWARDSHIP AND PENSIONS

Committee Members: Rev. Peter Ward, Ottawa, IL (chairman); Dr. Tim Skramstad, Eagan, MN (secretary); Mr. Bill Buck, Arlington, WA; Mr. Ray Cuthbert, Bethel Park, PA; and Mr. Vernon Russum, Grafton, ND.

#### STEWARDSHIP

1. WHEREAS, the Stewardship Board has proposed to have an Association Advocate to be selected by each congregation for the purpose of : a) receiving communications from the Stewardship Board and b) communicating needs and blessings to the congregation  
BE IT RESOLVED, that each congregation be encouraged to select a stewardship liaison as an Association Advocate.

**MSC to adopt**

2. WHEREAS, the members of the Stewardship Board have given dedicated and prayerful service to the AFLC  
BE IT RESOLVED, that we heartily thank Arnold Johnson, Pastor Donald Norr, Jeremy Zeltinger, and Rev. Greg Schram.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend a special thank you to David Bjornson for his service and completing his term on the Board.

**MSC to adopt**

#### PENSIONS

1. WHEREAS, the financial needs of some of our pastors and their families are a serious concern

AND WHEREAS, new pastors and congregations may not be fully aware of the AFLC financial and insurance programs

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pension Board continue to create an awareness of the AFLC health plan, pension plan, and HIS fund through bulletin inserts, direct mailings, Lutheran Ambassador articles, and other media.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pension Board provide a class at our AFLC Seminary to explain these programs to our future pastors.

**MSC** to adopt

2. WHEREAS, the Pension Board has made progress in various details of the health and pension plans by the use of EBSC as a third party payer and the hardship amendment for withdrawing funds from the Pension Plan

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pension Board complete a comprehensive retirement investment policy and present it to the AFLC Pastor's Conference in January 2007.

**MS** to adopt

Mrs. Linda Nelson **moved** to amend

WHEREAS, the Pension Board has made progress in various details of the health and pension plans ~~by the use of EBSC as a third party payer~~ and the hardship amendment for withdrawing funds from the Pension Plan

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pension Board complete a comprehensive retirement investment policy and present it to the AFLC Pastor's Conference in January 2007.

**Second**

Ray Cuthbert, Bethel Park asked the question why it would be dropped out.

Mrs. Linda Nelson said that they are not making the payments yet.

Pastor Culler, Hagerstown, MD, said that there is no need to strike the words.

Pastor Peter Ward, Ottawa, IL, said the amendment changes the whole of the resolution.

Amendment **defeated**

Unamended resolution **carried**.

3. WHEREAS, the members of the Pension Board have prayerfully served our AFLC with many hours of service

BE IT RESOLVED, that we thank Glenn Espe, LeRoy Sletten, Gerald Kuster, Rev. Mike Klenner, and Rev. Larry Haagenson

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we especially thank Rev. Rodney Johnson who completed ten years of dedicated service on the Pension Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we also thank Rodney Kjersten who serves as our plan agent for his service to our AFLC and its pastors.

**MSC** to adopt

### **Report of the Nominating Committee**

Stewardship Board - Layman, 5-year term

Mr. Paul Slaamot, Tioga, ND

Mr. Shawn Adrian, Valley City, ND

**MSC** nominations cease, balloting followed.

Election results:

Youth Board - Layman, 5-year term

76 Mr. Jordan Langness, Brooklyn Center, MN

77 \*Miss Kayla Russum, Lake Stevens, WA

\*elected

Board of Pensions - Pastor, 5-year term

Rev. Mike Klenner, Freeman, SD

Rev. Dave Keippela, Wyoming, MN

**MSC** nominations cease, balloting followed.

Committee #5 – Stewardship & Pensions

Rev. Roy Johnson, Northome, MN

Mr. Bryon Meyer, Sioux Falls, SD

Rev. Larry Severson, Roseau, MN

Mr. LaVern Thompson, Fergus Falls, MN

From the floor:

Mr. Gary Thayer, Bethel Park, PA

**MSC** nominations cease and to elect.

recess