



**Lower Susquehanna
Synodical Women's Organization
33rd Convention Minutes
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
215 St. John's Road
Elizabethville, PA 17023**

Saturday, September 25, 2021

The formal opening of the Convention began at 9:00 a.m.

Worship and Convention were held outside in the St. John's pavilion.

The opening Hymn "This Is My Father's World" ELW 824 was sung.

Pastor Thomas Bruner, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, welcomed attendees.

President Lois Ann Griffiths introduced the following guests:

Lynette Todd - CWO Representative, Women of the ELCA – 8F, Delaware/Maryland

Pastor Thomas Bruner – Pastor, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran

Pastor Nancy Brody – Chaplain, Pastor of Messiah/St. Peter Lutheran Churches, Halifax

Pastor Carla Christopher Wilson – Lower Susquehanna Synod Representative

Introduction of the Convention Committee:

Fay Nichols and Barbara Bullock - Convention Coordinators

Helen Henninger and Mary Ann Smeltz – Registrars

Marlene Shilling – Pianist

Fay Nichols introduced the Ladies in the Kitchen

Big Thank You to everyone!

Corrections to the Bulletin of Reports (BOR):

Page 10 – Susan Long replaced Peggi Norman as Parliamentarian (due to her absence)

Linda Hiney reported from the Committee on Credentials:

Voting Members 9 Officers/Board Members 10 - Total Voting Delegation - 19

Participants 25 Guests 1 Clergy 3 Total Present - 48

The quorum has been met.

Susan Long was appointed Parliamentarian.

Committees of the Convention were Appointed:

Committee on Credentials

Board Liaison: Linda Hiney
Voting Member: Shirley Johns

Committee on Minutes

Board Liaison: Christine Todd
Voting Member: Deb Johnson

Committee on Claims (Offerings)

Board Liaison: Kathy Kauffman
Voting Member: Mary Sprunk

Committee on Elections

Board Liaison: Sue Lyons
Voting Member: Linda Eves

Committee on Reference and Council (Resolution)

Board Liaison: Miriam Burke
Voting Member: Edna Sterner

Pastor Carla Christopher Wilson discussed the 6 areas of Priorities for the Synod:

1. **Fostering Spiritual Wellness** – Walking together as baptized children of God, we share responsibility for faithfully focusing our lives on Christ and deepening our connection to the Holy Spirit. We accompany one another in nurturing spiritually healthy relationships with God, each other, and the world.
2. **Developing Leaders** – We are called to identify, raise up, and equip Christ-centered leaders for the sake of the gospel. From faith formation in the first third of life to vocational call for both rostered and lay leaders, we accompany God’s people in discerning ways to live out their baptismal identity.
3. **Nurturing Congregations** – Christ calls us to nurture congregations whose faith shines in our relationships with God, each other, and our community. We support congregations in naming their identity and responding to God’s invitation to participate in the mission of Christ’s church.
4. **Relating Globally** – As part of the larger church, we intentionally accompany our partners in Christ across the world through mutual prayer, relationship, and shared learning. We engage in global partnerships to share our common humanity and life of faith.
5. **Growing Justice Outreach** – We believe that each person is created in the image of God. Jesus calls us to be a diverse and inclusive church caring deeply for all children of God. Loving our neighbor means seeking justice and equity where it is absent by addressing harmful prejudice and the exclusion of traditionally marginalized people. We seek to deepen understanding, listen with respect, and partner in advocacy as diverse communities to build a culturally competent church.
6. **Interacting Authentically** – We practice Gospel-centered hospitality, meeting people where they are, as they are. Recognizing we are all created in God’s image, we celebrate the richness in community by encouraging genuine, loving, Christ-like relationships.

For more information, visit the Lower Susquehanna ELCA website: lss-elca.org

Lois Ann introduced the current SWO Board:

Vice President – Susan Lyons

Secretary – Christine Todd

Treasurer – Kathy Kauffman

Board Members: Peggi Norman, Ellie Bauerle, Susan Long, Barb Dudek, Donna Greifzu, Linda Hiney, and Miriam Burke

There were approximately 8 first time attendees at the LS SWO Convention this year.

Lynette Todd, Churchwide Representative, Women of the ELCA welcomed attendees via Zoom.

Executive Board Recommendation #1 - Adoption of the Rules of Procedure was moved by the Synodical Board and approved.

Executive Board Recommendation #2 - Adoption of the Agenda was moved by the Synodical Board and approved.

The report of the Nominating Committee

President – Peggi Norman

Treasurer – Kathy Kauffman

Board Member for 2 Year term – Linda Hiney, Miriam Burke, Donna Greifzu,

No names were submitted for 4th Board Member.

Lois Ann read a letter from Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA (see attached).

Pastor Nancy Brody gave the Luncheon prayer, and the Doxology was sung. St. John's served a delicious lunch to attendees in their pavilion.

Convention reconvened at 1:10pm

Chaplain Pastor Nancy Brody prayed for Election Guidance.

Lois Ann told attendees about her experiences as being President of the LS SWO Board.

Ballot #1 – President (2 Year Term) – Peggi Norman

Votes Cast = 19
Invalid Votes = 1
Votes needed to elect = 13
Total votes cast = 20

Peggi Norman is declared President.

Miriam Burke read a message from Angela Hammer about Tanzania.

Lynette Todd spoke to the women about Churchwide.

Ballot #2 – Treasurer (2 Year Term) – Kathy Kauffman

Votes Cast = 19
Invalid Votes = 0
Votes needed to elect = 13
Total votes cast = 19

Kathy Kauffman is declared Treasurer.

Marlene Shilling led the women in singing the Doxology while stretching with different movements.

The In-Gathering offering was collected. This offering is for "Community Fellowship Meals" to help serve up to 100 people from the Upper Dauphin County area.

A nomination was submitted to add Sandra Dreibelbis to voting process for Board Member.

Ballot #3 – Board Members (4 for two-year terms): Linda Hiney, Miriam Burke, Donna Greifzu and Sandra Dreibelbis

Votes Cast = 19
Invalid Votes = 0
Votes needed to elect = 13
Total votes cast = 19

Results: Linda Hiney – 19
Miriam Burke - 19
Donna Greifzu – 19
Sandra Dreibelbis – 19

Linda Hiney, Miriam Burke, Donna Greifzu and Sandra Dreibelbis declared Board Members

Executive Board Recommendation #3 - The Report of the Treasurer & the Audit Report was moved by the Synodical Board and approved.

Executive Board Recommendation #4 - The Adoption of the Ministry Budget for 2018-2019 was moved by the Synodical Board and approved.

Sue Lyons read the President's Report. Barb Dudek made motion to accept the President's Report. Shirley Keister seconded. Voting Members approved.

Executive Board Recommendation #5 – Upon approval of Minutes of Convention, it will be printed and distributed to the voting members and also to the congregations in the Lower Susquehanna Synod not represented by voting members and will be made available to all congregations in the Lower Susquehanna Synod.

Report of Committee on Reference & Counsel – Board Liaison Miriam Burke announced that they had received a Resolution from Dorothy Whissler.

Resolution #1 – Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases

Whereas: As Women of the Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization to pass a resolution to "Work with People of Goodwill" to materially reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in order to stabilize our climate and to support public policy which may include carbon free and dividend model or other means accounting for greenhouse gas emissions from carbon-based fuels to mitigate further irreversible climate change.

Resolved: To recommend for action based on the whereas statement. I will walk if I don't need the car for short distance. Recycle more.

Recommendation accepted by Voting Members.

Barb Dudek gave the report for the Ingathering (United Lutheran Seminary):

- 245 food items
- 24 toiletry items
- 142 paper items
- 6 cleaning products and Shopping bags
- \$1,020.00 + 45.00 (add'l) = \$1065.00** – Gift cards
- 38 Baby Quilts
- 3 Lutheran World Relief Quilts

Susan Long gave the report for the Covered in God's Love Quilt Project:

- 559 Quilts
- 769 Personal Care Kits
- 1,031 School Kits
- 10 Baby Care Kits
- 856 Bars of Soap
- 10 Fleece Tied Blankets

Total of 3,235 items

Additional projects were completed by Congregational Units, which will be included in the News & Views Newsletter.

Report on Claims: Kathy Kauffman gave the report

Convention Ingathering	\$1,237.25
Convention Offering	1,679.00
Katie's Fund	184.25
Crafts	<u>344.00</u>
Total	\$3,444.50

Sue Lyons recognized two out-going Board Members: Lois Ann Griffiths (President) and Susan Long (Board Member). She thanked them for their time and support while on the LS SWO Board.

Chris Todd brought everyone up to date on the LS SWO Camp Hebron Fall Retreat that was to have been held October 29-31, 2021. Due to COVID numbers increasing and to protect all attendees, the LS SWO Executive Board met and approved the rescheduling of the LS SWO Camp Hebron Fall Retreat to October 28-30, 2022.

Lynette Todd installed New and Current Board Members: Peggi Norman (absent), Sue Lyons, Kathy Kauffman, Christine Todd, Sandra Dreibelbis, Miriam Burke, Linda Hiney, Donna Greifzu, Barb Dudek, and Ellie Bauerle.

Closing Hymn was "My Life Flows on Endless Song" ELW 763

The 33rd Convention of the Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization closed at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Christine Todd
Board Secretary, LS SWO