

DISTRICT CONVENTION

Resolutions Address Outreach, National Issues

Delegates to the recent Florida-Georgia District Convention considered all 17 resolutions prepared by floor committees. Adopted resolutions are summarized below.

Ablaze Missions and Outreach: To encourage District congregations and members by the year 2017 to share the Gospel of Jesus with 2,000,000 people, to plant at least 200 new Florida-Georgia missions, and to identify and recruit at least 22 congregations (one per circuit) to commit to church revitalization efforts; to encourage congregations to become Ablaze partners; to develop and implement a Blueprint for Missions and Outreach in the District by 2009.

Thailand/Southeast Asia Mission Support: To extend the District's partnership agreement in Thailand/Southeast Asia with LCMS World Mission; to continue the annual designation of \$100,000 from the District's unrestricted Synod commitment toward work there; to encourage individuals, congregations and circuits to support World Mission work and to participate in

the Thailand Evangelical Mission Partnership.

Concordia House of Studies: To reaffirm support for the Concordia House of Studies by encouraging member congregations to provide "generous financial and prayer support . . . as well as to encourage students to enroll" in the program; to encourage the CHS Board of Directors to explore new sites and new programs; and to have each District congregation "rededicate itself to a program of intentional recruitment of professional workers."

To Welcome 2007 National LCMS Youth Gathering: To accept invitation to serve as Host District for the event and pledge "faithful support of the planning, coordination and staging" for it.

To Encourage Proportional Giving: To

encourage all congregations to implement a stewardship program "that increases their proportional giving over the coming years toward a goal of contributing 20% of offerings received to the District" while the District "likewise will continue to honor God as these increased proportional gifts are received and continue to increase its proportional gift to



THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS hosted the President's Reception on the opening night of the Convention. Scott Morris, Managing Partner for the Florida Region, (shown above) was among Thrivent representatives attending the Convention.

Synod to assume a larger role in direct support of our LCMS mission of bringing Christ to the lost."

To Thank and Encourage Completion of Forward Together: To extend the District's capital campaign — *Forward Together-Servants in His Mission* — until the 2009 Florida-Georgia Convention and to encourage "covenant" congregations to fulfill their commitments and to encourage congregations that "previously have not been able to participate" to do so.

To Present and Promote Lutheran Service Book in the District: To receive the new *Lutheran Service Book* and *Agenda* with thanksgiving and affirm District participation in the introductory process coordinated by the national Commission on Worship and to encourage congregations to make use of the LSB and its supporting materials.

In Recognition of Woodlands Lutheran Ministries:

To give thanks to God for the "very special ministry" of Woodlands and for those who made it possible with "selfless gifts" of time and financial support; to express "genuine sadness over the closing of the ministry" while recognizing the "difficult decision that the Board of Directors was led to make" in closing the camp; to pray for guidance in "using the resources from the disposition of the Woodlands" to carry on its legacy.

To Increase the Number of Synod-Certified Teachers: To encourage congregations to require non-Synod-certified teachers who are LCMS members to finish the Teacher Colloquy Program and non-LCMS teachers to enroll in basic Lutheran religion courses; and to provide financial support and public recognition to their teachers.

To Promote Teacher Colloquy: To encourage District schools to enable teachers to take course work leading to certification as Commissioned Ministers; to encourage Concordia University System schools to find more options for teacher colloquy; to urge the Concordia House of Studies to provide a similar program that is "educationally sound and fiscally responsible."

Lutheran Services Florida: To give thanks to God for those who initiated the human care ministry of LSF 25 years ago and for His continuing "creative Spirit which enables" the agency to provide a comprehensive ministry in the name of Jesus; to lend support and encouragement to the success of LSF's 25th anniversary campaign.

To Change Synodical Bylaw 3.12.3.6: To request and submit a resolution to the 2007 LCMS Convention to change the referenced bylaw regarding nominee qualifications to include "number of years as a member of a Synodical congregation and number of years served in offices in a congregation, district or the Synod."

To Require Minutes to Indicate Name of the Mover of Major Motions: To request the Synod in convention to direct its Secretary to include this name in the "minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and that the vote be recorded when stipulated" by *Robert's Rules of Order*.

To Decline Overtures: To decline five overtures that the Floor Committee on Synodical Matters carefully considered and concluded that "the proposed changes or requested actions will not likely foster the desired peace and order."

Resolution of Thanks: To show appreciation for the delegates, the District executive and support staff, devotional leaders, presenters, musicians and exhibitors by standing and singing the common doxology. □



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Your District Connection

Lutheran LIFE keeps you up-to-date on the people, activities and outreach of the Florida-Georgia District.

Features detail news from our congregations and schools, including updates on building programs, introductions to new staff and members, announcements of honors and accomplishments, invitations to special events and celebrations.

Columns from Florida-Georgia executives provide inspirational insights into the ministry and mission of the District — and provide encouragement to continue to reach out to a world in need of the vital message we have to share.

Learn about service opportunities provided by our social outreach and auxiliary ministries, enabling District members to share the love of Christ with those in their own communities and beyond.

Connecting to Members at Home

With the District-sponsored Every-Member-Mailing Program, Florida-Georgia congregations can ensure that their members receive *Lutheran LIFE* via direct mail into their homes.

There is no cost for this service. Just contact our production office and provide your mailing list (which is used ONLY for distribution of *Lutheran LIFE* issues). It's that simple.

For more information, contact Chris Utech at LutheranLife@aol.com, via fax at 561.417.5606 or call 561.417.5605.

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REV. RALPH SCHMIDT (left), Vice President for Institutional Advancement for Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne, IN, and Rev. Darrell Stuehrenberg of Gloria Dei-Davie, FL, are shown at the President's Reception. Schmidt is a former pastor of Trinity-Fort Lauderdale, FL.