

The LUTHERAN CLARION



Lutheran Concerns Association
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Task Force on Structure Recommendations: A Summary of the Problems

President Keischnick's Task Force on Structure has made 21 recommendations that would significantly change the LCMS Constitution and Bylaws. With this many proposals one would expect a mixed bag. But that is not the case. Only recommendations four, twelve, and fifteen should be given serious consideration, and even then there are good arguments on both sides of the issues. And recommendation four should only be adopted with major changes. The remainder of the recommendations should not be adopted and cannot be fixed by amendment. **These recommendations should be defeated.** There are certain problems that are consistent in most of the proposals. These are:

1. Significant increase in the power of the President;
2. An increase in the role of the Synod in the congregations, while the role of the congregations in the Synod is significantly reduced;
3. The stated goals will not be accomplished, efficiency will not improve, and money will not be saved; and,
4. Rely on structure and political power, instead of Scripture, to address divisions and problems in the Synod.

Some of the more significant problems with the recommendations are listed below.

Recommendation #1: Affirm and Clarify Governing Documents

- Changes relationship between Synod and congregations by moving toward a hierarchical organization.
- Language is subtle, but very significant.
- Wording is vague and subject to different interpretations which will lead to conflict.
- Changes wording of Confession – this is not consistent with 2007 Convention Resolution 8-07S.

Recommendation #2: Clarify the Congregational Principle

- Diminishes the voting influence of pastors.
- Diminishes the legal rights of pastors as members.

Recommendation #3: Restore Circuits to their Primary Purpose

- Increases influence of District Presidents in selection of circuit counselors.
- Will not accomplish stated purpose of restoring circuits to their primary purpose.

Recommendation #4: Study Future District Configuration

- Proposes a solution before studying the problem. Studying District configuration should be part of a larger overall evaluation of any financial inefficiencies in the Synod.
- Should clearly state that study does not include proposal for Synod to have control over congregations property.

Recommendation #5: Allow Commissioned Ministers to Serve as Voting Delegates at District Conventions

- Gives Commissioned Ministers right to vote while diminishing the pastors' voting rights.

Recommendation #6: Establish Congregational Representation at District Conventions

- Gives extra votes and influence to larger congregations.
- Labeled a "wedge issue" in Bredholt Report* because it is divisive, pitting large congregations against small congregations.
- Rejected by 2004 Synodical Convention Resolution 7-08.

Recommendation #7: Establish Five Geographical Regions in the Synod

- Creates more complicated structure and bureaucracy with no benefit.

Recommendation #8: Nominate Part-Time Synod Vice Presidents from the Five Regions

- Creates more complicated structure and bureaucracy with no benefit.
- Gives President unprecedented power to select vice presidents.

Recommendation #9: Amend the Frequency of District and National Conventions

- Might save money.
- Will reduce influence of congregations.

Recommendation #10: District Conventions Will Elect Delegates to the National Convention

- Will increase politics on the district level. ...continued...

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* The LCMS paid a consulting firm, Bredholt & Co., several hundred thousand dollars to advise the Blue Ribbon Task Force. The Task Force largely disregarded the consulting firm's recommendations. For more information see the June 2010 issue of *The Lutheran Clarion*, p.1ff.

- Eliminates important purpose of circuits in selecting delegates.
- Will result in inconsistent and arbitrary processes for selecting delegates.
- Increases influence of District Presidents in selecting delegates.
- Diminishes role of congregations in selecting delegates.

Recommendation #11: Fix the Number of National Delegates at 650

- Reduces influence of congregations in Synod affairs.
- Gives priority to dollars instead of congregational representation.

Recommendation #12: Establish Consistency in Terms of Office

- Only relevant if #15 is adopted.
- Should only be adopted if it includes term limits on President and First Vice President.

Recommendation #13: Increase Congregational Participation in the Election of the Synod President and First Vice President

- Is cumbersome, awkward, and favors the incumbent President.
- Will increase political activity, especially by incumbents.
- Could fracture congregations by introducing Synodical politics.
- Gives President unprecedented power to select vice presidents.

Recommendation #14: Ensure Regional Representation and Necessary Expertise Among the Members of the Synod's Board of Directors

- Diminishes the influence of the congregations in electing the Synod Board of Directors.
- Unnecessarily eliminates qualified members from serving on the Synod Board of Directors.

Recommendation #15: Implement a Process for Developing Quadrennial Synod Priorities and Goals

- Similar proposals have been adopted in the past, only to be repealed after their failure.
- Will create busy work but accomplish nothing.

Recommendation #16: Give Priority to Circuit and District Overtures

- Significantly diminishes influence of congregations.

Recommendation #17: Emphasize the Importance of Doctrinal Resolutions and Doctrinal Statements

- Could result in watered-down doctrinal resolutions.

Recommendation #18: Realign the National Synod Ministries around Two Mission Commissions

- Dramatically increases power of the President.
- Could have devastating negative effect upon missions and human care work.
- Will not save money; but will place significant portions of the budget under the President's supervision.
- **Is in conflict with Synod's Constitution and Missouri law.**

- **Probably the most counterproductive of all the recommendations.**

Recommendation #19: Clarify the Priority of the Constitution over the Bylaws

- Unnecessary.
- Could be interpreted as increasing influence of Synod over congregations.

Recommendation #20: Adopt a Process Leading to Renaming the Synod

- Has been rejected by previous Synodical Convention.
- Will harm international missions by harming LCMS name recognition.
- Is counterproductive.
- Will cost millions of dollars.

Recommendation #21: Urge the Continued Study of Pastoral Certification Continuing/Education

- Continuing professional education is good; but certifying pastors called by God is questionable, at best.

Christian A. Preus

LCMS Board of Directors (1995-2007)

Partner in Meagher & Geer Law Firm

Delegate to 2010 LCMS Conventions

No Freedom of Information Act Under Synod's Board of Directors

The Lutheran Clarion of May 2009, reported on KFUE-FM, a "Crown Jewel" being for sale notwithstanding that the Board for Communication Service's report commencing at p. 59 of the 2007 CONVENTION WORKBOOK noted that in February 2006, the Synod's Board of Directors declared, "**a ...five year moratorium on any further discussion of the potential sale of either KFUE AM or FM.**" In the concluding paragraph of *The Clarion* story it was said, "**In summary, the handling of KFUE has an odor to it.**" Read some of the pleadings, "In The Application of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Gateway Communications, Inc. For Assignment of License of FM Station KFUE-FM, Clayton, MO File No. BALH-20091026AAX, Facility ID No. 65924" and the odor becomes nauseating. In this issue of *The Clarion* there is space only to bring attention to several points in the sad saga of the sale of KFUE-FM. Synod should forever be grateful to men like the Rev. Dr. Paul Devantier, Attorney Robert Dusenberg and Dr. Paul L. Maier to name but a few who heroically fought to save KFUE-FM as a **Lutheran** radio station and all that really connotes.

With lack of full disclosure on the shameful handling of the sale of KFUE-FM it is time for voting delegates at **Houston to replace** incumbent Board of Directors (BOD) members Rev. Victor Belton, David Piehler, Rev. Jeffrey Schrank, Roy A. Schmidt and Walter F. Tesch for their role in the sale of KFUE-FM and for the shabby treatment given a distinguished list of "Missourians" requesting the BOD to explore and be open to ways to keep KFUE-FM Lutheran. It is also time to think of a new bylaw which is the equivalent of Freedom of Information Acts common in the governmental area

but lacking in our Synod. As you read on, keep in mind the Synod's Board for Communication Services in 2007 said: **"KFUO - 'FORWARD! UPWARD! ONWARD' is a crown jewel of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod."** With no thanks to the BOD and the May 5, 2010, decision of the Federal Communications Commission, File: 1800B3-BSH, the "crown jewel" has been severed by approving the sale of KFUO-FM to Gateway Creative Broadcasting, Inc. It remains to be seen how long a freestanding KFUO-AM will survive the corporate cannibalism being practiced by the Kieschnick Administration, a style of sale of corporate assets reminding one of the infamous wreck of the Penn Central Railroad. Synod also sold some properties in Hong Kong and Venezuela.

Every confirmed member in the Synod would do well to go to the web site of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and check out the FCC file on the Application of the Synod noted in the opening paragraph herein and secure from the FCC pleadings filed in the case. Reading a few pleadings and sworn affidavits of men such as Attorney Robert Dusenberg, Dr. Paul Devantier, and Dr. Paul L. Maier, e.g.; the May 8, 2009, letter of Rev. Dr. Paul Devantier to Synod's BOD (not responded to by Board Chairman Muchow until October 30, 2009!!) and the resolution of the Concordia Seminary Faculty of December 10, 2009, will curl your hair. In fact as you read through some of the pleadings you may well think not of December 10, 2009, but of December 7, 1941, called a "Day of Infamy" and at Pearl Harbor, oddly enough, it was actions or inactions of top military men that rightly made headlines. Now consider the role of the Chairman of the BOD of Synod in selling KFUO-FM, again an Admiral but a Chaplain Admiral.

Consider first that on May 8, 2009, The Rev. Dr. Paul Devantier wrote Synod's BOD a letter concluding, "It is the sincere prayer of individuals, congregations, and organizations that an alternative arrangement that keeps KFUO and KFUO-FM within the Lutheran family can be pursued."

In a letter of May 8, 2009, signed by distinguished members of the Synod five reasons were given why it would be unfortunate to sell KFUO-FM:

- * A vital mission of proclamation, nurture, outreach and community relations is being conducted by KFUO-FM.
- * A sale would damage the good name and reputation of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod in St. Louis and around the world.
- * A sale disenfranchises and severely disappoints many thousands of individuals and organizations that have provided virtually all the financial and volunteer support for the station throughout its history.
- * KFUO-FM is the source sustaining KFUO-AM. Its sale would surely be followed by AM's demise.
- * There are attractive alternatives for retaining KFUO-FM, thereby also ensuring the future of KFUO-AM. These should be explored and opportunity being given for their advancement.

The signatories to the letter, as augmented July 9, 2009, included:

Dr. Andrew Bartelt, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Concordia Seminary
Dr. Karl L. Barth, President Emeritus, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Rev. Keith Boheim, The Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation
Dr. Ralph A. Bohlmann, President Emeritus, LCMS
Rev. Lawrence A Burgdorf, The Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation
Conrad Burns, U. S. Senator, Retired
Dr. Paul W. Devantier, Senior Vice President, Advancement--Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
Richard W. Dusenberg, Attorney at Law; Co-Founder, "Bach at the Sem"
Robert H. Dusenberg, Attorney at Law; Co-Founder, "Bach at the Sem"
Dr. Charles W. Dull, Former Director, Hong Kong Int'l School
Rev. Alan Erdman, President, Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri
Dr. Jean Garton, Former Member, LCMS Board of Directors
Oscar H. Hanson, Former Member, LCMS Board of Directors
Dr. John F. Johnson, Former President, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
Dr. James W. Kalthoff, President Emeritus, Missouri District, LCMS
Dr. Robert H. King, Former Vice President, LCMS
Rev. Jerry Klug, President, Clara and Spencer Werner Foundation
Ruth M. Koch, Chair, Board of Directors, Concordia Publishing House
Thomas M. Kopatz, Executive Director, Lutheran Education Association
Michael Louis, Sr. V. P., Financial Planning and Administration, Concordia Seminary
Lawrence Lumpe, Executive Director, Lutheran Hour Ministries
Dr. Paul L. Maier, Second Vice President, LCMS
Dr. Walter A. Maier II, Former Second Vice President, LCMS
Rev. Ulmer Marshall, Former member, Board of Directors, LCMS
Dr. Dale Meyer, President, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
Dr. Judith W. Meyer, President, Lutheran High School Assn. of St. Louis
Michael Onnen, President International Lutheran Laymen's League
Gerald Perschbacher, Editor, "The Lutheran Layman" (LLL)
Dr. Richard Peters, Former Member, LCMS Board of Directors
James F. Ralls, Chair, Board of Regents, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
Dr. Walter L. Rosin, Secretary Emeritus, LCMS
Representative John Shimkus, U.S. Congressman, Illinois
Dr. Uwe Siemon-Netto, Former Religion Editor, UPI
Rev. Jonathan P. Stein, Regular Pastor, KFUO-FM 20+ years
Dr. Richard L. Thompson, Former Chair, Bd of Directors, LCMS
Edwin A. Trapp, Former Member, Board of Directors, LCMS
Dr. James W. Voelz, Dean of Faculty, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
Phyllis Wallace, "Woman to Woman," Lutheran Hour Ministries
John D. Wittenmyer, Vice Chair, Board of Regents, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

It is pathetically sad that the May 8, 2009, letter was not responded to until October 30, 2009, by Chaplain Donald Muchow, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Synod. That letter is an exhibit to the REPLY TO RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENT TO PETITION TO DENY OF THE COMMITTEE TO SAVE KFUO-FM dated March 15, 2010. It is interesting to note that Chairman Muchow in that letter stated the Board "...chose to proceed with the sale at its meeting August 20-21." He also said the Board signed an agreement to sell to Gateway Broadcasting - Joy-FM making no comment on the date of the contract. Keep in mind that Synod's BOD went into "Executive Session." A May 6, 2010, story in the St. Louis Post Dispatch online said, "A KFUO employee declined to speak on the record saying, 'We're all under a continued gag order' imposed by Brashear." (Attorney Brashear...)

hear is a member of Synod's BOD who has represented Synod in the sale of KFUO-FM.)

The Synod Board of Directors stiff-armed the distinguished signers of the letter of May 8, 2009, as later supplemented, and by the sale continued the stiff-arming tactic with the Concordia Seminary Faculty which on December 10, 2009, adopted a resolution:

"KFUO-FM Faculty Resolution (December 10, 2009)

Whereas—with regard the Church's proper work of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ—the decision of the Board of Directors to sell KFUO-FM is problematic in that

1. the loss of the FM station will almost surely entail the demise of KFUO-AM, which clearly and consistently proclaims the Gospel message, and
2. the loss of Classic 99 programming eliminates the witness to the Gospel through the broadcast of the words and music of J. S. Bach, especially (e.g., in broadcasts of "Bach at the Sem"), but also of other Lutheran and Christian composers, as well as through programs devoted specifically to the Christian musical heritage, such as "Joy" and broadcasts of St. Louis Bach Society programs, and
3. overt Lutheran Christian programming, such as "By the Way," "Sing for Joy," and the Sunday morning service from Chapel of the Cross in North County, St. Louis, will no longer be available to listeners in the 60+ mile listening radius of the strong FM signal, and

Whereas—with regard to the Church's conduct within society at large and its stewardship of God's resources—the decision to sell is problematic in that

1. selling the station to an entity that will not continue classical music programming deprives the St. Louis and wider community of a great cultural resource, which is among those things that are, in St. Paul's words, "honorable, worthy of respect... lovely, commendable, excellent, worthy of praise" (Phil 4:8) and which should come under our consideration;
2. selling the station has alienated the St. Louis cultural community from the LCMS, and very directly also, from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, which is (properly) strongly linked with the positions and actions of the LCMS;
3. the manner in which the sale was conducted was fundamentally lacking in transparency and openness, which has also alienated the St. Louis cultural community from the LCMS, and very directly also, from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, which is (properly) strongly linked with the positions and actions of the LCMS;
4. the manner in which the sale was conducted did not give realistic opportunity for Lutherans/Lutheran groups to purchase the station and thus keep this historic asset in the hands of those who gave it birth and nurtured it;
5. the vast majority of the funds from the proposed sale will not be available for a decade, thus diminishing greatly the value of the sale for its stated purpose, viz., the funding of other initiatives;
6. the cost of severance packages for those released from the station is also certain to diminish the value of the sale for its stated purpose;
7. no provision has been made to deal with the radio station structures on the Concordia Seminary campus, the cost of which is also certain to diminish the value of the sale for its stated purpose,

Therefore, be it resolved that

1. the faculty of Concordia Seminary express its profound disagreement with and opposition both to the pending sale of KFUO-FM license to the local CCM Station, Joy, and to the process by which it is being accomplished, and that
2. it encourage the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to seek a reversal of its agreement to sell KFUO-FM, and that
3. **it encourage the Board to carry on such activities with transparency and openness, and** (Emphasis supplied.)
4. it encourage that Board to make every effort to enable the station to remain under Lutheran ownership, and finally that
5. **it encourage that Board to entertain the offer of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, made in a memorial to the Synodical Convention of 2007, to study the Seminary's possible administration and programming of the station.** (Emphasis supplied.)"

It certainly cannot be said the Synod's BOD lacked timely knowledge of the interest of Concordia Seminary long before it signed a contract with Gateway. What a terrible way to treat brothers of the Faith!

So, the CONVENTION WORKBOOK OF 2010 at page 73 carries a report of the Synod's Board of Directors. There is one sentence on KFUO: "The board also sold the KFUO FM radio license in St. Louis and established a new policy for the use of proceeds from sales such as these." What will the Synod get? The POST DISPATCH story alluded to "The Synod will finance the sale with a 10-year balloon note. Gateway paid \$150,000 when it signed the contract in October and will pay \$1.35 million at closing with smaller payments until a final balloon payment of \$14 million in the 10th year, for a total of about \$26 million." It is, however, interesting to look at the 990 Federal Tax Return of 2008 filed by Gateway, an exhibit to one of the pleadings with the FCC, which showed net assets the prior year of \$350,838 and Net Assets of \$178,249 of tax year 2008, Line 22.¹ The same

The Job is Not Finished!

No matter who is elected in Houston to serve the Synod as its President and whether or not the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synodical Structure and Governance are adopted or rejected, there will be much remaining work to be done to return our Synod to the Church of our Grandfathers and Reformation fathers!

The Lutheran Concerns Association is dedicated to the effort to reclaim our full Lutheran heritage for The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, but we cannot achieve this long-range goal alone. We need your continued help so that a truly Lutheran church body will be there for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In some small way we at the Lutheran Concerns Association desire to be helpful in preserving our faith, under the Lord's blessing, so that the treasure of pure doctrine and right practice will be known for generations yet to come.

Would you prayerfully consider assisting us in this on-going effort with your tax deductible donations? Please send checks to:

The Lutheran Concerns Association
1320 Hartford Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55116

POST DISPATCH stated, "The synod was prompted to sell after facing multi-million dollar shortfalls in recent years." **Do we stay tuned to KFUE-AM for ten years to see if Synod in fact gets paid the total contract sales price?** When will we be given an itemized breakdown of ALL fees paid to attorneys and consultants in this matter including a breakdown of fees paid to BOD member Attorney Brashear? When will we be told what expenses in this matter have been including employee termination costs?

Walter C. Dissen

Member Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Board of Control 12 years
 Member Commission of Appeals, 12 yrs
 Member Concordia Theological Seminary, Board of Regents 12 years
 Retired Corporate Attorney

1 In an October 15, 2009, fund raising letter JOY sought to raise \$2 million by February 28, 2010, toward what it said was "...the total purchase price of \$18 million..." and said the "...terms are very favorable to JOY FM..."

A Delegate's Reflections on the Blue Ribbon Task Force Proposals

I am a voting delegate to Houston this summer. President Kieschnick and many others at the synodical headquarters are urging our whole church body to be praying fervently for God's blessing on this convention. Believe me, I am!

Last summer, I went to our Indiana district convention. I listened to the presentation of the Blue Ribbon Task Force's (BRTF) proposals. I did the survey like delegates in every other district had done or eventually did. The questions were written in a very general sort of way, such that there was mostly no direct connection with the actual points of the Task Force proposals. There were "relationships" between them, but the items we were asked to react to were not the actual proposals that Rev. Robert Greene of the Task Force had presented. That made the survey potentially manipulative. My own lay delegate told me he marked "Agree" or even "Strongly Agree" on many points of the survey, but he is dead-set against pretty much the whole of the BRTF report and their proposals.

**“ Rev. Greene:
 'I am a bureaucrat,
 not a theologian.'”**

When it came to the BRTF's representative's Q and A period, I was extremely disappointed. Our doctrine and theology had *nothing* to do with the work the BRTF did, except, perhaps, for starting out with "polity is adiaphora," which seems to have become the excuse to do whatever we want to do with the structure of our synod, never mind that our structure certainly ought to be viewed as a concrete practicing of our doctrine of the Church. I asked **Rev. Greene** the question as to how the proposal concerning the certification of new pastors squared with AC XIV. Frankly, it was a softball question, in my mind. He didn't even attempt to answer. He said, **"I'm a bureaucrat, not a theologian."** (That is a direct quote.) Then he made a comment to this effect: "We'll submit this stuff to the real theologians (seminary faculties, etc.) and they'll okay it." In other words, rubber-stamp it after the fact. That really is how it came across, and to more than just me. It was breathtaking.

I went to Detroit for the regional delegate caucus in early December. On a side note, I was taken aback by the ritziness of our accommodations, but our District President Dan May said he was stunned at what a fantastic deal the hotel had given us—the suffering Detroit economy had worked to our advantage, and the hotel greatly appreciated our business. I can accept that, and applaud the efforts of the organizers of the caucus meeting.

I went earnestly hoping to find some pieces of the Task Force report that I could support, pieces that really seemed to be something we could all agree on as being a good idea. The only substantive change that was made between the proposals presented in June in Ft. Wayne and those presented in December was actually one idea that was worse than before—counting pastors and all commissioned workers together as "associate members" for purposes of representation at conventions. Again, the survey presented was "related" to the points of the proposal, but mostly we did not have the opportunity to react directly to the proposals themselves on that survey. The questions were designed to elicit "Agree" responses. On both surveys, repeatedly, there was an unstated assumption that if you agreed with the statement on the survey relating to a particular issue in the Task Force proposals, then "obviously" you agreed with/supported that particular proposal.

One thing that particularly bothered me was the money question: "What will happen if we don't pass these structure changes?" Answer: The Board of Directors will have to make some very hard, unpleasant decisions about where to cut programs in synod in order to keep it solvent. There is a huge assumption behind this—that if we do pass the BRTF recommendations, we won't face those tough financial decisions. But when people asked how much money these changes would save, the answer was: We don't know, haven't really studied that part that far, yet.

One other point needs to be mentioned, it's far from clear to me that the proposals really do put "power" or "impetus" back in the local congregation, as the Task Force has over and over again said they want to do. At that regional caucus, after several hours of presentation by the Task Force and President Kieschnick, we had an evening "break-out" discussion done district by district, in separate rooms. Vice President Buegler was the synod representative in our room, and District President May moderated. I thought it was a good, frank, open and "Christian" discussion. There was a lot of discussion about how these proposals are supposed to be congregationally-centered, and on the other hand, how they seem actually to do the opposite. District President May, at one point, asked for a straw poll: Raise your hand if you view the proposals more as "bottom-up" (that is, grassroots, congregationally-centered, as the TF says they are); raise your hand if they seem more top-down (that is, centralizing power for setting the direction of the synod, taking away the voice and authority of the local congregation); raise your hand if you just don't know at this point. The response was overwhelming—we had close to 30 delegates present, and two or three raised their hand for bottom-up, two or three for "just can't tell, yet," and the rest for top-down. Indiana has a reputation for being a "conservative" district, but I saw some people I know with

whom I don't necessarily agree on things like Church Growth and worship issues who had their hands up for "top-down."

To help me figure out how to vote on these proposals, I put this into the context of my own two congregations. If the proposals pass, will my people be and feel more connected to and involved in the life of the Missouri Synod, or less, and simply go their own way, ignoring synod? And inescapably, my answer is, less. That, to me, is a sad acceleration of the atomizing and disconnecting of our own church body, a trend which is not at all unique to us.

I wanted to be able to agree with the general direction of as many points as possible, and so be able to "approve what is helpful," and "amend what can be made better", as President Kieschnick told us. But all I am left with is rejecting what is not helpful—because none of it is helpful, **none of it is truly formed by our Christ-centered theology.**

Rev. David Mueller

Trinity, Goodland, IN
St. John, Rensselaer, IN

Balance-Concord, Inc., Remembers...

Balance-Concord, Inc., has contributed to *The Lutheran Clarion* in honor of the sainted **Rev. Raymond Mueller** and the sainted **Rev. Edgar Rehwaldt**, both of whom faithfully served the Synod and Balance-Concord, Inc., for many years.

Should the Office Seek the Man?

In 1973, the first year that congregations directly nominated candidates for president, the results were pretty lopsided. The incumbent, JAO Preus, received almost 70 percent of the nominations and Dr. Oswald Hoffman received the rest.

The results from this year's nominations were similarly lopsided. But this time it was the incumbent, President Gerald Kieschnick, who received only 36 percent of the vote. The remaining went to the Rev. Matthew Harrison.

The result in 1973 was that the #2 vote-getter declined the nomination and Preus was reelected. That does not look like it will happen this year.

In fact, when I asked around to find out how President Kieschnick was taking the surprising news, sources close to him insisted that he is "in it to win it."

According to two of them (and a third source told me something very similar), he promised supporters "I WILL win; I have a plan." They said they were told that all options are on the table. The folks I spoke with at the International Center told me that the Kieschnick team was "shocked and stunned" about the Rev. Harrison's strong showing and are trying to figure out how to drive down his popularity.

As of press time, the Rev. Harrison hasn't spoken or written anything publicly about his nomination, even when asked about it by the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. But in a note to his staff at LCMS World Relief and Human Care, he described the results as "humbling" and encouraged them to continue their good work in light of the possibility that their department might be negatively affected by the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance's proposed changes.

"I am profoundly thankful for all of you. In you I have witnessed the very best in the church's corporate life. You wear the love of Jesus on your sleeve, and that sleeve is always rolled up, at work. What has been accomplished through you in the name of Jesus is simply beyond belief," Harrison wrote.

Whatever else might be said about President Kieschnick, I think everyone agrees that he has excellent political skills. He's good at vote counting, political positioning, knowing when to communicate something himself and when to have district presidents (or other prominent friends) do it. And, to be sure, political management is not necessarily a bad thing.

But it does raise questions. Does President Kieschnick's response to his poor showing in nomination totals reflect a "servant" attitude? Do his remarks seem appropriate for a Synodical President?

American politicians – usually in the midst of their own campaigns – frequently reiterate the adage "The office seeks the man." They're speaking to an important virtue of public life in a free society: the public should choose who represents them, not the other way around.

And yet it's even more important in church life. When the church calls men into Christian ministry, it trains them at a theological seminary until the faculty declare them fit. And then a congregation, or the church at large, must extend a call. The office seeks the man, not the other way around.

Through our nomination process and voting by convention delegates, the Synod should continue to seek the man to lead her.

Mollie Ziegler-Hemingway

Free Lance Writer
Wall Street Journal Contributor

Thanks for All Your Support!

The first issue of *The Lutheran Clarion* came to our readers in September, 2008. By the time this issue reaches you 15 issues will have been published in the hope of restoring our beloved Synod to its former unity in doctrine and practice, and recapturing the spirit of unity for the sake of advancing the precious Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is our prayer that you will have been moved to make a difference in our Synod at whatever level you find yourself working in the Lord's kingdom.

Thanks also to the many, many donors who put their money where their convictions are and sent in thousands of dollars so that the people in the LCMS could know the truth about their Synod and act accordingly to address errors and promote God's truth. Special thanks go to **Balance-Concord, Inc.**, whose steadfast support of *The Clarion's* publication has been very encouraging!

I would be remiss also if I did not express the profound gratitude of the LCA and especially the Editorial Committee for the many, many writers who worked to author the articles which filled *The Clarion* with well-documented, well-written, thoughtful and sometimes provocative information you've come to expect within our pages.

Finally, we must thank those who took the time to read our publication. *The Lutheran Clarion* was created for you and you responded by doing us the honor of reading what we've produced!

Rev. Richard A. Bolland, Chairman

Editorial Committee – Lutheran Concerns Association

The United List

Serving Congregations of the LCMS since 1992



The "United List" announces its recommendations for the following offices of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). Offices listed will be filled at the upcoming convention of the LCMS in July 2010. Further biographical information is available at <http://theunitedlist.org>.

(Key: 0=Ordained; C=Commissioned; L=Lay; * =Floor Nominee; Parentheses indicate synodical district)

Synodical President

0: Matthew Harrison

First Vice-President

0: Herbert Mueller, Jr.

Second through Fifth Vice-Presidents

0: John Wohlrabe
0: David Adams
0: Daniel Preus
0: Scott Murray
0: Wallace Schulz

Secretary

0: Raymond Hartwig

Treasurer (no recommendation)

LCMS Board of Directors

0: Michael Kumm (SI) *
0: Rick Milas (CI) *
L: James Carter (NI)
L: Ed Everts (IE)
L: Keith Frndak (EA)
L: Warren Puck (IW)

Board for District and Congregational Services

0: William Kilps (SW)
C: Martha Milas (CI)
L: David Bruns (KS)
L: Carla Claussen (MNS)

Board for Mission Services

0: Thomas Engler (EA)
0: Daniel McMiller (SW) *
L: Paul Flakne (MNS)
L: Robert Van Gundy (MNS)

Board for Pastoral Education

0: Steven Briel (MNS)
0: Clint Poppe (NE) *
L: Jonathan Dorr (SD)
L: Earnest Garbe (CI)
L: Jeffrey Hesterman (SO)
L: Richard Schaefer (AT)

Board for University Education

0: Daniel Jastram (EN)
C: John Mierow (SW)
L: Christian Rieddle (MI) *
L: David Hawk (IN) *

Commission on Theology and Church Relations

0: Arlo Pullman (MT)
C: Timothy Hardy (MI)
L: Jeffrey Schwarz (SI)

Concordia Publishing House

Board of Directors

0: Alvin Schmidt (CI)
C: Mark Bender (MO)
L: Gretchen Roberts (MDS)
L: Natalie Oleshchuk (MO)
L: Phillip Magness (NI) *

Lutheran Church Extension Fund

Board of Directors

0: Larry Myers (SW) *
L: Christian Preus (MNS) *
L: Johnny Buck (MT) *

Concordia University, Ann Arbor

0: Martin Moehring (IN)
C: Wesley Wrucke (IN)
L: Leslie Sramek (SI)
L: (no recommendation)

Concordia University, Austin

0: Richard Cody (MO)
C: Jan Lohmeyer (TX) *
L: Noreen Linke (TX) *
L: Jon Bruss (KS) *

Concordia College, Bronxville

0: (no recommendation)
C: John Mierow (SW) *
L: James Tallmon (SE) *
L: (no recommendation)

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

0: Ron Garwood (WY)
L: Leo Mackay (SE)
L: Bradd Stucky (SW)

Concordia University, Irvine

0: Michael Morehouse (EN)
C: David Burgess (SW) *
L: Sandra Ostapowich (RM)
L: Glen Piper (IN)

Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon

0: Klemet Preus (MNS) *
C: Lynnette Fredericksen (NW)
L: Robert Knox (NI)
L: Mary Dittmar (SW)

Concordia University, Portland

0: Stewart Crown (CNH)
C: Keith Brosz (NOW)
L: Kathy Schulz (EN)
L: Andrew White (NOW)

Concordia University Chicago, River Forest

0: William Weedon (SI)
C: Mark Muehl (IN)
L: Deborah Grime (IN)
L: Mark Stern (NI)

Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis

0: Harold Senkbeil (SW)
L: Albert Allen (TX)
L: Paul Hegland (SW)

Concordia University, Saint Paul

0: Karl Weber (MNN)
C: Angela Hublick (IN)
L: Carol Fehrmann (MNS)
L: Gregg Hein (MT)

Concordia College, Selma

0: David Mommens (IN)
C: Lawrence Sohn (SW)
L: James Sandfort (MO)
L: Ellen Ziehr-Lange (PSW)

Concordia University, Seward

0: Ryan Wendt (MT) *
C: James Juergensen (SW) *
L: Lloyd Sommerer (NE) *
L: (no recommendation)

Since 1992 the "United List" has served the congregations of the LCMS who seek to be faithful to the synod's constitution and confessions. It has done this by recommending candidates who uphold the synod's constitution and confessions, who are impeccably ethical, and who have proven themselves in every way for service to the Lutheran church.

The Lutheran Clarion

(The official publication of the Lutheran Concerns Association, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.)



Published regularly to support issues and causes within The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod which build faithfulness to true Confessional Lutheranism and to be a clear voice of Christian concern against actions and causes which conflict with faithfulness to the One True Faith.

The principal place of business for all matters pertaining to the LCA is:

1320 Hartford Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55116

Other faithful Lutheran individuals who are members of LCMS congregations are invited to submit articles of approximately 500 words for consideration to:

Rev. Richard A. Bolland
1608 NW 78th Street, Kansas City, MO 64118
(816-519-3780; richardbolland@gmail.com)

Articles should be approximately 500 words in length. Inquiries are welcome. Manuscripts will be edited.

The Board of Directors for the LCA:

Mr. Walter Dissen (President)
Rev. Richard Bolland Mr. Robert Rodefeld
Rev. Joseph Fisher Rev. Thomas Queck
Rev. Daniel Jastram Dcs. Betty Mulholland
Mr. Scott Meyer Mr. Donald Zehnder

<http://www.lutheranclarion.org>

Lutheran Concerns Association
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