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"How can you possibly justify the existence of another Lutheran synod?" This is a question which I have heard at various times throughout the years. Had it been that our Conference were formed simply because of personalities, external ceremonies, personal likes and dislikes, then indeed the existence of another Lutheran synod could not be justified in the sight of God. On the contrary, to disrupt fellowship for such reasons would reveal sinful pride and would surely constitute sinful separatism which is contrary to the Word of God (Eph.4:3) and is rightfully condemned in our Lutheran Confessions. (See Augsburg Confession, Art. VII, Apol. Art. III, Trig. pages 47 & 185). But, by God's grace, our Conference was not formed and does not continue to exist because of sinful separatism on our part. The reason for our existence lies in the fact that those who at one time confessed the same truth with us no longer desired to abide by all of the Truth of God's Word. Therefore in obedience to God's Word there was and is no alternative if we want to remain faithful to the pure Word of God but to remain separate and not have church-fellowship with those who have espoused false doctrine. In doing this we are obeying the voice of the Lord in His Word when He commands, "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them"(Rom.16:17). But another objection is raised. We are told, "But there are only minor errors involved." What right do we have to excuse what many may consider to be "minor errors"? After all, the Bible is not our word to do with as we please, it is the Word of God, the almighty Creator of heaven and earth! To excuse the denial of any part of God's Word "breeds indifference to the whole body of truth. And indifference carries in its wake the loss of the truth"(Popular Symbolics, page 17). The Lord warns us through the pen of the Apostle Paul, "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump"(Gal.5:9).

Because we have taken our stand, by God's grace, upon all of God's Word and refuse to enter into church-fellowship with those who have espoused false doctrine, we must experience the consequences of faithfully confessing and seeking to abide by all of God's Word - persecution. And here, at least in our own country, we are not talking about bodily persecution such as the early Christians experienced at the hands of the Roman emperors, but rather persecution in the form of stinging ridicule and sarcasm. We are accused of being Pharisaical, of possessing an holier-than-thou attitude, lovelessness, refractoriness, etc. And because we have our sinful flesh such disparaging remarks cause us much grief. For the "fiery darts of the wicked"(Eph.6:16) do not hit steel and simply drop off, but they sink into flesh and blood! There is, therefore, the danger that we, particularly in these last evil days of the world would become tired and weary. There is the danger that we would surrender. But we dare not forget, "who bears not the battle's strain the crown of life shall not obtain"(Hymn 421). In order to encourage and strengthen us "in these last days of sore distress" (Hymn 292) let us turn our attention to these words of our dear Lord Jesus:

BE THOU FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH, AND I WILL GIVE THEE A CROWN OF LIFE!

Faithfulness is a virtue which is held in high regard even by the unbelieving children of the world. When a worker is faithful in conscientiously doing the work assigned to him the employer can not help but take note of this and the wise employer will also commend such a faithful employee. We observe such faithfulness on the part of pious Joseph while in the household of Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh in Egypt. Joseph served Potiphar who "made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had"(Gen.39:5). Even in this strange land Joseph, as we know, was faithful to the Lord and "the Lord was with Joseph"(Gen.39:2).

To whom are we to be faithful? It is our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It is He who loved us from the foundation of the world, before we were ever born into this life. It is He who is our best and dearest Friend, to whom we owe all those wonderful blessings we enjoy. It is He who for our sakes descended from the throne of His divine glory and came into this world and took upon Him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men (Philip.2:7) and who loved each and every one of us so dearly that He sacrificed His very life for us on the cross and shed His holy blood for us that He might atone for all of our sins. It is that dear Savior who is exalted and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, that glorious Savior who is being adored by all the holy angels in heaven. He it is to whom we should be faithful!

There are, of course, those within the pale of Christendom who readily agree that we are to be faithful to the Lord Jesus. But, alas, at the same time, many have fallen into the snare of the father of all lies of separating the Lord Jesus from His Word! In other words, such maintain that we should indeed believe in Jesus and be faithful to Him but it is not necessary to be faithful to ALL of His Word. For example, an AM-FM Christian radio station is operated here in the Willamette Valley which claims to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. They speak much about believing in Jesus as our only Savior and the need of being faithful to Him. But sometime ago the one chiefly responsible for the policy and programming of this station publicly emphasized that "we do not have to be concerned about doctrine as long as we hold to Christ." In a very sarcastic manner he belittled doctrine as being of little importance.

But where are we told about the Lord Jesus and His work of redemption? We are not told about the Lord Jesus in private revelations and visions! It is in the Word of Truth, the Holy Scriptures, that we are told of the Lord Jesus and all that He has done for our salvation. The Lord Jesus points to the Scriptures and states, "They are they which testify of Me"(John 5:39). Plainly the Lord Jesus declares, "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me AND OF MY WORDS in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels"(Mark 8:38). And in the Gospel of John the Lord says, "If a man love Me, he will keep My words"(John 14:23). And what is the commission which the Savior gives to us? "TEaching them to observe ALL things whatsoever I have commanded you"(Matt.28:20). Thus the Lord Jesus demands faithfulness of us - faithfulness to Him and His Word - all of it!

By God's grace, the public teaching of our congregations which form our Concordia Lutheran Conference is stated in the very first point under Article II of our Conference Constitution: "This Conference and every member thereof accepts without reservation: 1. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the verbally inspired Word of God and the only norm of Christian faith and life (2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Pet. 1:21; 1 Cor.2:13); Ps.119:105; John 8:31,32)." And what do these passages say? Listen! "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"(2 Tim.3:15-17); "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost"(2 Pet.1:21); "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth" (1 Cor.2:13); "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Ps.119:105); "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31,32).

"Be thou faithful unto death!" Would to God that we could inscribe these words on our hearts with indelible letters! For the Lord Jesus and His word are the dearest treasures we possibly could have on this earth, more valuable than gold, and silver, and pearls, and diamonds, and all that is precious to man. Therefore whoever would attempt to take these treasures away from us we must consider to be our worst enemy because he seeks to destroy our souls!

Our first and foremost worst enemy is the devil whom the Apostle Peter pictures as a roaring lion, who walks about, seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet.5:8). Let no one underestimate the power of this foe of God and man! Look what he did to our first-parents in the Garden of Eden! Behold how he sought the destruction of Job! See how he entered into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the betrayer of the Lord Jesus!

The devil also has allies. There is, as Dr. Luther writes, the betrayer within us - our miserable sinful flesh. We Christians must cry out with the Apostle Paul, "I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing....for the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do....O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death"(Rom.7:18f.)? Here again, let no one underestimate the power of our sinful flesh! In spite of the fact that the Israelites had been commanded not to take anything from the inhabitants of the city of Jericho for themselves, we recall how Achan's sinful flesh prompted him to disobey that command and to keep the Babylonian garment, the shekels of silver and a wedge of gold. And that because of this act of disobedience the Israelites suffered a humiliating defeat in their first battle with the men of Ai (Josh.7). And who can fail to remember the example of the great King of Israel, David, who succumbed to the lusts of his flesh and became guilty of adultery with Bathsheba (2 Sam.11).

And, finally, there is the world with all of its allurements and enticements. The Apostle John writes, "the whole world lieth in wickedness"(1 John 5:19). The unbelieving children of the world are, in reality, co-workers with the devil who seek to bring us into misbelief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Look what the unbelievers did with the Apostle Peter in the courtyard of the high priest where this disciple of Jesus so shamefully denied his Lord and Savior by cursing and swearing (Luke 22). No wonder the Apostle John writes, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the Will of God abideth forever" (1 John 2:15-17).

Let us heed the cry of our dear Lord Jesus by daily pleading with the Lord to grant us the aid of His Holy Spirit that we do not let Satan, the world, or our own sinful flesh triumph! Remaining faithful to our dear Savior we shall also strive to remain faithful to everything that pertains to our Christian calling: faithful in the performance of our duty; faithful in loving our neighbor as ourselves; faithful under the cross which we must bear; faithful in prayer; faithful in attending the divine services; faithful in a frequent participation in the Lord's Supper; faithful in all Christian virtues.

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life," says the Lord Jesus. We know what a crown is. It is the head-dress of kings, queens, emperors, and the like. It is generally made of solid gold and studded with pearls and precious stones. But God will not give us a crown made of perishable things, such as gold and precious stones. For what good does a king's crown do him when he lies cold and motionless in his coffin? God will give us a different crown, a crown that is more valuable and precious than all the crowns and kingdoms of this world put together - a crown of life.

The life that we are now living here upon earth is imperfect, full of woe and misery. And the older we grow the more we feel such things. And finally death will have to come at last. But being those who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb we do not have to fear the King of Terrors. For the true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ perfect life shall begin from the moment we breathe our last. Our souls, like the soul of Lazarus in Luke 16, will be taken by the holy angels into the paradise of heaven where we shall see God and meet the saints who have gone before us. This heavenly bliss which will last throughout eternity is the crown of life which God will give and present to us, NOT because we earned and deserve it by our faithfulness, but of His own free grace and mercy in Jesus, our dear Savior.

May this glorious promise of our dear Savior encourage us to remain undaunted and unswerving in our faithfulness to the Lord Jesus and all of His Word even in the midst of poverty, affliction and persecution! Amen.

Rev. M.L.Natterer, President

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CONVENTION ESSAY

FAITHFULNESS ON THE PART OF PASTORS AND MEMBERS

By Rev. O. W. Schaefer

"Be thou faithful!" These words from Rev. 2:10 are the motto for our convention this year. They are especially fitting in the times in which we live, times that are marked by a spirit of unfaithfulness in many areas of life, both secular and religious. There are, for example, husbands and wives who in a spirit of permissiveness following the dictates of a so-called "New Morality" no longer abide by the solemn vows which they made on their wedding day and act in a most unfaithful manner overagainst each other. There are people in the field of business who strive for higher goals by resorting to methods and means that are dishonest but are used in such a way as to disguise their true nature. Thus these workers are unfaithful to their employers and to the company which they serve. And what about the unfaithful acts of those who serve in local or federal governmental positions? Time and again we hear and read that these employees in many instances have succumbed to bribery, unscrupulous tactics, and illegal measures in order to promote their standing and gain popularity. How unfaithful they are to their constituents and to the principles of law and order! And when we survey the religious field and examine carefully what is said and done publicly by many of the clergy in our land, it is correct judgment in the light of Scripture to declare that many pastors are not faithful in the tasks which God Himself has assigned unto them, but in many cases they "serve their own belly, and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." (Rom. 16:18) Many more examples of unfaithfulness could be mentioned, but let these suffice to demonstrate how widespread this evil has become! Lest this spirit invade and gain control of our lives, let us as Christian pastors and lay people strive, with God's help, to fight against it and to set a powerful example to others! Our essay this year focusses our attention on this matter as it emphasizes:

FAITHFULNESS ON THE PART OF PASTORS AND MEMBERS

I.

What does it mean to be faithful? Webster's New World Dictionary states that it means constant adherence to something to which one is bound by duty and obligation. Let us, first of all, apply this definition to Christian pastors.

When a pastor is ordained and installed, he is asked this question: Art thou determined to discharge faithfully the duties of the holy ministry in full accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Symbols of the Ev. Lutheran Church? Upon his response, "I have so determined by the grace of God," the congregation joins in praying that God would strengthen him in the faithful performance of the duties of the ministry and bless his labors in the service of the Lord. Dr. Walther wrote in his Law and Gospel, "Reflection upon the estate of preachers and teachers of the Word must make them ever more faithful in the performance of their office." (p. 286)

First and foremost, pastors are to be faithful in preaching and teaching the pure doctrine of God's Word and administering the Holy Sacraments according to Christ's institution. Paul wrote to Timothy, "Preach the Word!" (2 Tim. 4:2) and to Titus, "Speak thou the things which become sound doctrine!" (Titus 2:1) It is clear that faithful ambassadors of the Lord are not to preach their own wisdom or the wisdom of this world; they are not to make a show of their knowledge and oratorical skill; they have not been sent to proclaim developments in science, literature, art, social reforms, politics, laws,

and the like. The only wisdom they are to preach centers in Christ and Him Crucified, in Him who says through the prophet Jeremiah, "He that hath My Word, let him speak My Word faithfully!" (Jer. 23:28) And Peter writes, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God!" (1 Pet. 4:11) True prophets of the Lord must preach the Law of God in all its severity, telling people that by nature all are lost and condemned because of sin, are under the wrath of God, and are doomed to eternal destruction. Then when people realize their sinful condition and their need of the Savior, faithful ministers will also preach the Gospel in all its sweetness, assuring forgiveness of sin through faith in Christ and His blessed work of redemption.

True servants of the Word will also be mindful of the fact that they are to feed their flocks with ALL of Scripture, following the example of Paul, who said, "I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God!" (Acts 20:27) This will therefore include warning their members against all false doctrine and practice, which seeks to undermine the Word of God and the foundation of the Church, whether this is the case of "grievous wolves" entering in or the case of men arising "of your own selves... to draw away disciples after them." (Acts 20:29-30) In Ezekiel 3, God says, "I have made thee a watchman... give them warning from me!" This will require courage and fearlessness because the temptation will be great for a pastor to hold back in this regard because someone's feelings might be hurt or because some like to hear what is pleasing to the ear rather than such strong words as, "Beware of false prophets!" (Matt. 7:15) "Mark... and avoid them!" (Rom. 16:17) "Try the spirits whether they are of God!" (1 John 4:1) "Beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness!" (2 Pet. 3:17) To be a good watchman a Christian pastor cannot be a dumb dog that fails to bark when thieves and robbers attempt to break in and steal. (Is. 56:10) Out of love for the souls entrusted to his care he will follow the perfect example of Christ and pattern himself after the apostles in exposing and refuting error on the basis of Scripture.

To be faithful in preaching and teaching pastors are not only to rebuke sin, as we heard before, but also to give encouragement to their members to lead a godly life, to walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:25), to live unto Him which died for them and rose again (2 Cor. 6:15), and by their good works to show their faith and to demonstrate to others the blessings of Christianity, motivated throughout by the mercies of God. (Rom. 12: 1-2)

Through faithful preaching much needed consolation from Scripture will be given, for as doubts and misgivings, trials and tribulations confront the believer, he needs the comforting assurance that God alone can soothe and calm his troubled heart.

As regards the administration of the Sacraments, faithful pastors will perform these sacred acts in accordance with Christ's institution. They will hold up before their members the significance of Baptism throughout their lifetime and will encourage the parents of a new baby to have it baptized without long delay, choosing as sponsors persons who are of the same fellowship, sound in the true teachings of the Bible. Such pastors will encourage their members to partake of the Lord's Supper often for forgiveness, for strengthening of their faith, and for a testimony of the unity of faith. They will arrange for proper announcement for every communion service, since they are responsible for the souls in their care and are to watch that no one partakes of this Sacrament to his damnation. Proper preparation and continued instruction in the blessings of Holy Communion will, under God, improve the attendance record at the Lord's Table.

In addition to the administration of the Sacraments, true ministers of the Word will conduct all official acts in a Godpleasing manner, such as weddings and funerals. They will uphold Scriptural principles in every case and will not give in to the whims and desires of such as would circumvent these principles. They will see to it that Sunday School classes are conducted in a spirit of devotion and decorum with thorough instruction by consecrated teachers under their supervision. They will also hold edifying Bible classes for the continuing spiritual growth of their members and will encourage them to participate in this more informal study of God's Word. They will also prepare children for communicant membership in the congregation through sound instruction in the teachings of the Bible and will guide them in every way to be and remain a wholesome asset to the church. Faithful pastors will also see to it that voters' meetings are conducted in the spirit of Christ, in an atmosphere of harmony and peacefulness, and will encourage all eligible men in the congregation to take part in the work of the Lord given specifically into their charge.

In his Preface to the Large Catechism (Triglot, p. 573, sec. 19) Luther urges pastors daily to exercise themselves well in their studies and to keep on reading, teaching, learning and meditating. They, too, need to search the Scriptures daily and study the Lutheran Confessions anew so as to remain established in true doctrine. They are to live in daily communion with God through prayer, and Luther says, "Beg God that through His dear Son He would give you His Holy Spirit to enlighten you, guide you, and give you understanding!" (Festival and Occasional Sermons, L. Wessel, p. 126) Then in humble dependence upon the Lord they will be able to give their flocks the spiritual nourishment which they need week after week. It is well to remember what Paul wrote to Timothy, "Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine; continue in them; for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee!" (1 Tim. 4:16)

While preaching is the most important official act of a Christian pastor, as Dr. Walther put it, (Law and Gospel, p. 247) his work includes the shepherding care of every member in the congregation. Peter writes that ministers take the oversight of the flock. (1 Pet. 5:2) Paul told the elders at Ephesus that the Holy Ghost made them overseers to feed the church of God (Acts 20:28), and (Hebr. 13:17), points out that pastors have the rule over their members alone on the basis of God's Word. These passages show that the full supervision of the congregation rests with the pastor, who is to keep a watchful eye over his members. He bears on his heart every precious soul and must be vigilant lest it stray or be lost. The secure member must be awakened to his perilous condition; he who errs must be led back on the right path; he who is weak and wavering must be strengthened; he who is terrified and troubled must be consoled; he who is stubborn must be admonished.

All this is a solemn duty which often incurs the bitter resentment of the very persons it is intended to help. To carry out this difficult task pastors should bear in mind that their rule over the members is a rule with the Word of God, with proper use of Law and Gospel, with sharp rebuke where needed, but also with an evangelical approach. Let them never minimize wrongs to keep friendships and maintain a supposed peace in the church, for such action would make them hirelings and not shepherds and incur the wrath of God. But may they rule alone with Scripture and not with their own notions and standards, lest they dominate the flock in a tyrannical manner, for through Peter God warns that they are not to be "lords" over His heritage. (1 Pet. 5:3) And Paul told the Corinthians, "Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy." (2 Cor. 1:24) God preserve pastors from being men pleasers, time servers, or domineering tyrants! Let them faithfully use their oversight, not as a position of personal power, but as a God-given obligation to watch and care for souls and some day before the Lord to render an account for each one.

Faithful pastors are also such as set a good example to their flocks. They are to show themselves patterns in piety and godly living. Their daily walk must be an object lesson of a truly Christian life. Thus Paul wrote to Timothy, "Be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity!" (1 Tim. 4:12) And to Titus he wrote, "Showing thyself a pattern of good works!" (Titus 2:1) Not only the pastors, but also those in their household are to be examples of godliness, giving no offense in anything, that the ministry be not blamed. Pastors will do well to review the qualifications and directives which God lays down in His Word in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:7-9. This will help them adorn true doctrine with a godly life, both in private and in public.

Concerning the pastoral office with its great and responsible duties, Luther wrote at the close of his Preface to the Small Catechism: "It involves trouble and labor, danger and trials, and, in addition thereto, little reward and gratitude in the world. But Christ Himself will be our reward if we labor faithfully!" (Triglot, p. 539, sec.26-27) Bearing in mind that "it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful," (1 Cor. 4:2) the Christian pastor will strive, with God's help, to perform all his labors faithfully, willingly, and of a ready mind, not by constraint or for filthy lucre. Before his eyes he will keep the blessed goal of which the apostle Peter speaks, when he writes, "When the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away!" (1 Pet. 5:4) Also the prophet Daniel says, "They that turn many to righteousness (shall shine) as the stars forever and ever!" (Dan. 12:3) The Lord bless such faithful pastors from on high and make them a blessing unto many! May He continue to send true prophets among us who proclaim His Word in all its truth and purity and whose only watchword is "It is written!"

*Oh, may Thy pastors faithful be,
Not lab'ring for themselves, but Thee!
Give grace to feed with wholesome food
The sheep and lambs bought by Thy blood,
To tend Thy flock and thus to prove
How dearly they the Shepherd love. (L: 493 v.2)*

II.

Let us now consider the importance of faithfulness on the part of the members of Christian congregations. Also to them applies the motto of our congregation: "Be thou faithful!" Through Solomon God makes His wonderful promise: "A faithful man shall abound with blessings!" (Prov. 28:20)

First and foremost, they are to be faithful in their use of the Means of Grace. Nothing may be more important in their lives than the Word and the Sacraments with their edifying power and sanctifying influence. This means that they will diligently read and study the Bible in their homes and give solemn attention to God's Word as it is proclaimed in the divine service and taught in the Bible class. They will regularly associate with their fellow-believers to grow in grace and in the knowledge of their Lord and Savior. (Hebr. 10:25; 2 Pet. 3:18) With David they declare, "Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house and the place where Thine honor dwelleth!" (Ps. 26:8) They are urged by Paul's words to the Colossians, "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom!" (Col. 3:16) And what encouragement Jesus gives when He says, "Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:28) When Christians read and hear and study that Word, they receive it, not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God. (1 Thess. 2:13) They will also partake of the Lord's Supper frequently for forgiveness of sins, strengthening of faith, and a testimony of their unity of faith. (Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:26-28)

Faithful members will honor and love their pastors and respect them highly for their work's sake. (1 Thess. 5:12-13) They should accept their messages as coming from God Himself, whether brought to them publicly or in private, and they should receive God's Word with meekness and heed it in the knowledge that their shepherds watch for their souls and must on the Last Day render an account before the Lord. To such Godpleasing response they are encouraged by the writer to the Hebrews, "Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves!" (Hebr. 13:17) for they are "over you in the Lord." (1 Thess. 5:12) Since pastoral rule must always center in the Word and not in the whims and desires of the flesh, Christians should follow the guidance of their shepherds on the basis of Scripture, and when matters arise which are not prescribed or forbidden in Holy Writ (adiaphora), they should seriously consider the advice given by their pastors and together with them make a proper decision. While in matters indifferent the pastor cannot demand unconditional obedience from his members, yet, as Dr. Walther wrote, let him see to it that "nothing is done in a trifling manner and nothing harmful is adopted." (Walther and the Church, pg. 82)

Faithful members, recognizing the pastoral office as a divine institution (Acts 20:28; Titus 1:5), will regard the incumbents of that office as "ministers of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God." (1 Cor. 4:1) In this connection Dr. Walther said, "If the hearers are convinced of this, they will gladly be satisfied even with a pastor whose gifts are rather limited, as long as he performs the duties of his office faithfully!" (What is Christianity, F. Pieper, pg. 134-135) Furthermore, the divine origin of this office should be an incentive to Christians to be in the house of God regularly and willingly to hear and study the Word of Life for their souls' wellbeing. And since the pastorate is God's ordinance, they will see to it that it is preserved in their midst and for generations to come, even as Luther wrote, "(Let us) work day and night to secure a large number of shepherds who may set (God's Word) forth to us richly and conscientiously!" (What is Christianity, F. Pieper, pg. 136) At the same time faithful members will bear in mind that they all have the command from God to proclaim His Word, as indicated in Matt. 28:19-20, and 1 Peter 2:9. They are to lift up their voices and spread the good tidings of salvation by faith in Christ. Each one according to his ability is to use every opportunity to carry out this important task, being ready always, as Peter writes, "to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." (1 Peter 3:15)

With regard to their pastors, faithful Christians will provide for their needs in proportion to their ability and mindful of the economy that affects us all. For the proper support of the ministry Scripture calls every member of the congregation, "that man that is brought in the Word communicate (share) in such things as the Lord ordaineth." (Gal. 6:6) Paul writes to the Corinthians, "Even so he that soweth seed and eateth thereof which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel." (1 Cor. 9:1) And in Luke 10:7 be read, "The laborer is worthy of his hire!" It is wise for the members to provide their pastors' salaries monthly and then to help supply personal and family needs to the best of their ability. Any other plan would cause great hardship, and men in turn would greatly affect ministerial work in their midst.

Faithfulness on the part of Christian members involves also the judging of their shepherds. Jesus said in His Sermon on the Mount, "Beware of false prophets!" (Matt. 7:15) Through the apostle John He tells us, "Try the spirits whether they are of God!" (1 John 4:1) And Paul writes, "Let a man so account of us..." (1 Cor. 4:1) In the light of these and other passages the Lord sets all hearers of His Word on the seat of judgment. They are to test what is taught and practiced, even as the Bereans (Acts 17:11) searched the Scriptures daily to determine whether the apostle's preaching agreed with Holy Writ. Like Paul faithful pastors will grant their members that right, even as Dr. Walther said, "I bow

to the humblest member coming with Scripture!" (Walther and the Church, pg. 45) Luther stated that such a pastor does "an accursed thing who impairs this right by a hair's breadth!" (Walther and the Church, pg. 92, sec. 7.) While God will demand at the hand of a false teacher the blood of those whom he has led astray (Ezek. 3), He also says that those deceived shall die because of their sin. No one is excluded from the office of judging in the light of Scripture, even as Paul told the Corinthians, "Judge ye what I say!" (1 Cor. 10:15) To do this Christians must be thoroughly grounded in the teachings of the Bible. It is their right and duty to judge doctrine, to receive it or reject it, alone in the light of Holy Writ. This requires knowing and holding fast to the truth so as to be able to separate the true from the false, the gold and silver from hay, straw, and stubble. It means to be firm in the doctrines of the Bible and to suffer all rather than to depart from them.

In the matter of judging those who proclaim His Word, Jesus cautions against being deceived by an outward good appearance. He speaks of false prophets as those who wear sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravening wolves. (Matt. 7:15) Let Christians beware, for even Satan used Scripture to try to tempt our Lord to sin! The external piety of a preacher is no guarantee that his teaching is truly Biblical. Let no one be deceived, but in judging shepherds, let the sheep look for proper fruits. Fruits of sound doctrine, for without these such pastors are false prophets. Christian congregation should bear in mind that they have the authority and duty from God to depose pastors for persistent false doctrine, for offensive conduct, and for wilful neglect of official duties. (Titus 1:9; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; 1 Cor. 4:1-2) In contrast, the godly life of an orthodox pastor is a most glorious confirmation and adornment of the pure doctrine. Those who hear and follow such ministers will under God become fruitful trees of righteousness.

Faithful members should show a Godpleasing attitude not only toward their pastors but also toward their fellow-members. They should love them (1 Pet. 4:8; John 15:12), deal kindly with them, work together with them in the church in peace and harmony, and should a member begin to go astray, they should admonish such a one in accord with the procedure which the Lord has outlined in Matt. 18:15-17, one of love and concern for his soul's welfare. Thus Paul wrote to Romans, "Ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another." (Rom. 15:14) As a spiritual family, members of Christian congregations should strive to be Christlike in their love and concern for one another. Great harm results if cliques develop, if small or large groups band together and then work against one another, if preferences are shown and favoritism shown to those who are members of long standing, while those who joined the congregation only recently are looked down upon or ignored. Where such conditions prevail, Satan is hard at work seeking to destroy the harmony among Christians and uproot the church from within. Let faithful members stand in their guard against such a situation, and let their conduct of life serve to edify their fellow members!

To be faithful Christians includes also being faithful offerings for the work of the Lord at home and abroad with a cheerful spirit, knowing that this is the will of God, for the Bible says, "God loveth a cheerful giver!" (2 Cor. 9:7) Their love for their Savior and their gratitude for all the rich blessings which He earned for them through His redemptive work will move them to abound in the grace of giving. Where they have been neglectful, they will beseech God to pardon them, for Jesus' sake, and to give them strength to subdue the old Adam so that they might grow in His grace of their stewardship. For that end our Savior exhorts, "Give, and it shall be given unto you...for with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again!" (Luke 6:38) Unhappy that Christian giving is an act of worship, faithful members should joyfully and willingly bring their offerings in as generous a measure as possible, as the Lord has prospered them, considering local needs first and then the various Conference needs in which

President's Report

Dear Brethren:

This last year we have witnessed some very difficult and trying days. Such days must be expected, for nowhere in Holy Writ are we promised that the faithful confessors of God's Word are exempt from trials and tribulations. On the contrary, we are told that "we must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God" (Acts 14:28). Such tribulation will be especially great during that "little season" in which Satan will be loosed and of which the Lord Jesus declares, "Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matt.24:22).

Not only have there been trials within our own little congregations, but also within our own midst as congregations united in our Concordia Lutheran Conference. At the beginning of 1982 your President received a communication from Pastor James W. Luedtke entitled: "Presentation of the Doctrine of the Church and Ministry together with an Examination of this Doctrine as Taught Officially by the Concordia Lutheran Conference." In this 35-page document Pastor Luedtke embraces and defends the Wisconsin Synod Doctrine of the Church & Ministry.

Pastor Luedtke had been dealt with previously concerning this position on the Church & Ministry. There had been lengthy meetings at Tinley Park, Illinois in August 1978 and February, 1979. There had been the Pastoral Conference at convention-time in 1979. There had been a two-day Pastoral Conference in Seattle, 1980. Pastor Luedtke expressed his agreement with us at the Pastoral Conference in Seattle in 1980, and we rejoiced that the unity of faith was preserved among us.

But in January of this year, 1982, it was a source of much grief to all of us when he wrote in the accompanying letter to his 35-page document, "What appears now in the enclosed essay to be a vacillation from my expressed agreement with the Conference Theses is not a vacillation at all but a complete reversal, a final position resulting from an intense study and an emerged clear understanding of God's Word."

Now what is to be done? Further efforts to show that his position is not the Scriptural position which we have held and which Pastor Luedtke's congregation, St. Stephen's Ev. Lutheran Church, has confessed with us as evidenced by their acceptance of our "This Scriptural Position We Still Hold" in 1968, have proved to be fruitless. We have, therefore, the sad responsibility at this convention of dealing with Pastor Luedtke on the basis of Article IV (cp. Article VII) of our Concordia Lutheran Conference Constitution (see pages 5 & 8). It is still our fervent prayer to the Throne of Grace that Pastor Luedtke might yet see that the position which he has rejected is the Scriptural position held by our fathers (Walther, Franz Pieper, Adolf Hoenecke, etc.) and that the Wisconsin Synod's position on the Church & Ministry is a deviation from the old truth.

On March 27, 1982 I received a letter from Mr. Dwight R. Luedtke in which he stated, "I hereby resign from my positions as a lay member of the editorial and missions committees of the Concordia Lutheran Conference. Such action is necessary inasmuch as I have resigned my membership in St. Stephen's Ev. Lutheran Church, Wilmot, SD. My resignation there is a consequence of my decision to join Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Aberdeen, SD, a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod." The vacancy left by his resignation will have to be filled at this Convention.

In our 30th Annual Convention last year our Pastoral Conference adopted a statement on Objective and Subjective Justification which simply reiterated what our orthodox Lutheran fathers publicly taught on the basis of Holy Scripture and set forth in the Brief Statement of 1932. Your President sent this statement to the Christian News on July 7, 1981 and it subsequently appeared in the Christian News.

Last Fall your President requested Pastors Mensing and Schaefer to attend, if at all possible, the Pastoral Conference of The Fellowship of Lutheran Congregations (FLC) in Des Moines, Iowa, on Oct. 26th and 27th. I wish at this time publicly to commend Pastors Mensing and Schaefer for their fine brotherly cooperation in honoring my request. No doubt, reference will be made to this meeting which they attended when we hear the report from the Committee on Lutheran Union.

In December (1981) we again received a letter from the Aid Association for Lutherans appraising us of a "new AAL fraternal benefit program which will recognize Lutheran congregations observing significant anniversaries. Called MILESTONE, the program will become effective January 1, 1982, and will offer financial assistance to a congregation during its anniversary year." Your President responded by referring to our Scriptural position on church fellowship and unionism. President Scheig of the AAL stated in his letter of reply that "AAL, as a fraternal benefit society, is not a part of the church. It is not and cannot be our role to make doctrinal or theological decisions. AAL's programs to aid church bodies are not an endorsement or judgment on their theology doctrines, customs or beliefs. This is definitely not our role as a corporation nor is it our field of expertise....Hence, AAL supports neither liberals, moderates or conservatives -- just Lutherans."

This last year your President has received letters of inquiry requesting specific information concerning our Concordia Lutheran Conference. Several letters were from Wisconsin Synod pastors and one was from a man in Belgium. A letter was also received from a Mr. McKearney of Sunny Isles Independent Lutheran Congregation in Miami Beach, Florida, inquiring about the possibility of obtaining a pastor from our Conference. This congregation is a member of the Church of the Lutheran Churches of the Reformation (LCR). Since there was no immediate possibility of obtaining a LCR pastor they turned to us for help. I responded to Mr. McKearney and, at the same time, requested the President of our Seminary, Prof. Schaefer, to prepare a more adequate response. This was very promptly done by our professor who will probably refer to this in his Seminary report.

As I conclude my final report as your President I wish to express my appreciation not only for the brotherly assistance given to me, but also for the patience of the brethren in bearing with me because of my inadequacies and weaknesses. Above all, I thank my dear heavenly Father for His grace in blotting out all my sins for Jesus' sake and strengthening me by His Holy Spirit to do the work which the Conference assigned to me.

Respectfully submitted,


 Rev. M.L. Mattered, president

Report of the Committee to Review the President's Report

Having reviewed the annual report of the Conference President, this committee finds it to be accurate, informative and thorough.

In view of the regrettable disruption in our fellowship this past year, as summarized in this report, we particularly note the time-consuming, patient and yet firm efforts of our President to guard the Scriptural position of our beloved Conference in consultation with the other pastors and praise the Lord of the Church for President Natterer's unswerving loyalty to our Confessional Standard in the Word of God and for graciously sustaining him in this difficult time.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Bloedel
David T. Mensing
Pastor Randall D. Styx, Chairman

Initial Report of the Committee on Registration and Excuses

A. Credentials

Proper credentials have been received for seating the following as delegates to this convention:

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Pastoral Delegates</u>	<u>Lay Delegates</u>	<u>Alternate Delegates</u>
Peace	Rev. H.D.Mensing	Rev.O.W.Schaefer David T. Mensing (c.r.m.)	Jeffery W. Styx
St. John's	Rev. M.L.Natterer	Ted Fitzwater Francis Williams	Paul Natterer Henry Fischer
St. Luke's	Rev. P.R.Bloedel	Stephen Bloedel Robert G. Bloedel	Victor K. Bloedel Paul F. Luedtke
Trinity	Rev. Randall D. Styx	John R. Dirksen Loren R. Dirksen	Ted D. Fischer Ron Fischer

B. Concerning St. Stephen's

Letter from St. Stephen's in place of credentials read to Convention.

C. Registered attendance

"Registered attendance at this convention is currently 9 people, including 1 pastor, 5 lay delegates, 1 alternate delegate, and 2 visitors."

Respectfully submitted,

Francis Williams
John R. Dirksen
Rev. Randall D. Styx

Final Report of the Committee on Registration and Excuses

Registered attendance at this convention was:

4 pastoral delegates
8 lay delegates
7 alternates
34 visitors

totaling 53 registered attendance.

This committee counted 109 in attendance at the Sunday Divine Service.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis Williams
John R. Dirksen
Rev. Randall D. Styx

REPORT OF THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Dear Brethren in the Lord:

Since our last convention your Editorial Committee has, by the grace of God, produced and published six bi-monthly issues of the Concordia Lutheran. We have tried to provide a balance of Christ-centered articles which inform and edify our readers and also included some local news from our congregations which was of special interest to all. With each issue our on~~w~~ aim was to show that God's Word is the only sure Guide for our Christian faith and life. When issues did not appear exactly on time, we again ask our readers to bear with us in the matter of unexpected and unavoidable delays. Our heartfelt appreciation does out to Pastor Bloedel and the Publishing House staff for their fine cooperation throughout the past year.

During the past year our pastors were most cooperative in writing the material solicited from them by the Editorial staff. We sincerely thank them for such commendable assistance in the production of each issue of our periodical. For any shortcomings we ask the pardon of our Lord and Savior and praise His holy name for His guidance and blessing in the past.

As to tracts, the 1981 convention resolved that last year's essay on "A Popular History of the Concordia Lutheran Conference" be printed as a pamphlet. This matter is in the hands of our Publishing House. As to the writing and production of other tracts, your Committee will consult on this matter at the earliest possible date. It will also take under advisement the suggestion of the Board of Directors at last year's convention that in the interest of our youth a children's page be considered for our Concordia Lutheran.

The Committee on the revision of Sunday School materials, namely, your Editor assisted by Candidate Mensing and Pastor Randall Styx, is busy on the Primary revision of stories in the Sunday School series with the facts of each lesson geared to the proper age level, but with application left to the wisdom and judgment of each pastor and under his supervision of each Sunday School teacher, all this in accord with the wishes of the majority expressed at last year's Board meeting. Upon approval of these materials the Committee will submit the result of its labors.

Our readers will have noted that we have begun an informative series on "Our Churches", featuring pictures and a brief history of our Conference congregations. This will help to acquaint one and all with the background and location of the churches in our fellowship.

We note with regret that the lay member on the Editorial Committee, Mr. Dwight Luedtke of Aberdeen, S.D., resigned this past spring both from this Committee and from the Committee on Missions and severed his fellowship with our Conference to affiliate with the Wisconsin Synod. We deplore this unscriptural action on his part. No immediate replacement was made because of the closeness of the 1982 convention.

While your Committee has no recommendation to offer, it does make this suggestion to the new Editorial Committee, namely, that it seriously consider publishing significant articles during 1983 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's birth. Edifying material on his life and work would be most appropriate to mark this outstanding event.

God continue to bless our periodical to His glory and the welfare of souls!

Respectfully submitted, O. W. Schaefer, Editor

REPORT OF SCRIPTURAL PUBLICATIONS (Concordia Lutheran Conference)

Dear Brethren,

By God's grace in Christ Jesus, our Concordia Lutheran, the Sunday School Lessons for our Conference congregations, and a Brief History of our Conference were printed by our publishing house during the past fiscal year. We have on hand from the Committee on Theological Education the manuscripts for the Seminary Catalog but have held off on the printing of this catalog at present because of the current inactive condition of our Seminary and the recent upheaval in our Conference which may also involve the support of our Seminary--and defer this to the Conference for its pleasure.

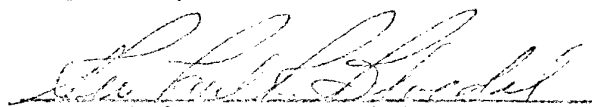
Other services rendered to the Conference by our publishing house includes the printed convention agenda and stationery for the Conference officers.

Because of various increases in running expenses, our publishing house needs at least a \$300 increase from the Conference for the next fiscal year.

We thank the Lord especially for having provided us with a dedicated printer, Mr. Julius A. Schmitt, who, for a very modest remuneration, expends a great amount of time on Conference printing. With regard to the amount of money received by our printer from the use of our Conference printing machinery on secular accounts, the total is \$977 for the year 1981. We are happy that our dedicated printer is able in this way to add to what our Conference is able to pay him.

May the Lord of the Church continue to bless our humble efforts in the area of the printed Word that His great work may be carried on among us and by us also through this medium.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Paul A. Stoszel, chairman
Scriptural Publications Board of Control

Dear Brethren in Christ:

For 12 years since 1969 our little conference has been greatly blessed by the Lord in being able to operate a fine orthodox seminary. Through the thorough and Scriptural instruction for the training of men for the Holy Ministry, we have also gained for our fellowship men qualified for the Lord's highest office among us. We indeed have much to be thankful for in our Seminary.

This past year our precious seminary was beset by a vexing problem, because for the first time since its beginning there were no students to fill its classrooms. However, this lack of students continues this year and there are no prospects at present for there being any in the near future. Furthermore, the one part-time student whom we hoped would soon be able to resume his studies has now severed his fellowship with us. It should be noted, however, that this problem is not one that belongs to the seminary alone. All of us in the Conference should be greatly concerned.

Now, some may think that because we have one man ready who is still waiting to receive a call, that there is no need at present for concern, that there is no immediate need for more students. But when we consider the physical age of the majority of our pastors plus the time it takes to train men adequately for the Holy Ministry, we will see the need we have to encourage our young men to consider, yea, to desire this highly blessed office so that we and our children will continue to have faithful and able shepherds under Christ.

It is important for us to realize that the job of encouraging men to desire the Office of the Ministry does not belong to our pastors alone. Indeed, their efforts can to a great extent be defeated if all of us do not supplement their work with our own efforts. To the end that all our people may be led more effectively and more abundantly to encourage our young men to consider, desire, study for, and accept the Holy Ministry on the Lord's calling, this committee has the following recommendations:

1. That this convention suggest to all our congregations that they have a special prayer regularly appended to the General Prayer in their divine services that the Lord may move the hearts of men among us to desire this holy office.

2. That this convention suggest our member congregations specially to devote one or more Bible classes to discuss both various ways in which all can encourage men to desire the Office of the Ministry as well as the need we have to do so.

We suggest including mention of:

A. Talking with another the many blessings that attend those who fill the Office of the Ministry, blessings which include those enumerated by Luther in his Law and Gospel page 285, which words were reprinted in our latest C.L.

B. Praying for our sons and for ourselves that the Lord guide us in counselling them regarding careers.

C. Watching carefully for our pastors that they remain faithful to the Lord's Word in all aspects of doctrine and practice and admonishing them lovingly and meekly, yet firmly, should they ever slip into error.

D. Luther's words: "Since God has given us His Word so abundantly, we should be grateful and earnest, read it, hear it, speak and sing about it, and work day and night to secure a large number of teachers who may set it forth to us richly and ceaselessly. That is what is meant by letting the Word of God dwell in us richly."

3. Request the Editorial Committee to solicit from each our conference pastors an article calling on our people and especially our young men to consider, and encouraging our men to prepare for the Office of the Ministry, the highest office in the Church, which articles would appear during this coming year.

The other area with which our committee was primarily concerned is that of the activities and work of our faculty during this time when we have no students.

This past year, the last convention made provision. For revenue and information generation, the works assigned and delegated to the professors (the first draft of a revised exposition of Luther's small catechism, the preparation of a brief Comparative Synodics booklet, and the preparation of a card file for the seminary library) as well as those auxiliary activities connected by the faculty, we refer you to the report of our seminary President.

Our assigned task in this regard was to develop additional contingency plans should the lack of students persist. This committee has discussed a number of both long and short term plans and feels that future committees should also be aware of various long and short term possibilities and alternatives. Because of the special circumstances in our conference especially at this time, however, the consensus of opinion on this committee is that our recommendations be limited to the situation with which we are presented this year.

This year it happens that we are presented with two problems. Not only do we still have no students, but also we are faced with a mild financial crisis. As noted in the letter of the Finance Committee to our member congregations, the deficits and estimated receipts in the Seminary Fund for this next year do not meet the expenses of even this past year. This committee has been informed informally by the chairman of the Finance Committee that this deficit still exists, and no congregation was able to increase its pledge or estimate of support.

The possible solutions with which we are left are either cut expenses, dip into reserves, or a combination of the two. Problems with the first include the fact that outside of salaries there is little to cut. Even if all else were eliminated anticipated receipts do not meet current salary levels. Furthermore, to eliminate certain budget items such as periodicals would keep our seminary's library from remaining current. Besides this, it would be a great burden for our professors if their salaries would be reduced -- especially for our Professor-President, whose primary earnings are from his work in the Seminary, and especially in these economic times.

The second alternative too has problems, the greatest of which is the fact that there is no reserve in the seminary fund, but rather a debt of \$400.00. To go into the reserves of a fund for the on-going expenses of its items is against the expressed will of our congregations (See 1977 Proceedings pp. 40,41; 1978 Proceedings p. 40) and our reserves here would require tapping one or more of the other funds, thereby increasing the seminary fund debt. Moreover, the General Fund, the only other non-designated reserve, also has anticipated expenditures that exceed anticipated receipts.

Because no final decision can be reached prior to the time when all factors can be considered and discussed in convention assembled, this committee can make no recommendations concerning the financial aspects of the problem. We do, however, mention some of the possibilities:

A. Keep salaries and expenses at current levels and draw the needed funds from the General Fund and/or the Building Fund; thereby adding to the temporary loan from the General Fund begun in 1977. This plan, hopefully, would tide us over until next year when, Lord willing, other alternatives would be better. Because of the expressed desire in years past that on-going expenses be paid from on-going receipts, this emergency plan ~~may~~ need to be approved by referendum.

B. Since we have no students to teach this year, place the Associate Professor on indefinite lay-off; but do not eliminate the position, lest the seminary plan of 1977 be lost.

C. As it is informally known to this committee that Peace congregation has resolved not to charge even the token rental fee of \$10.00 per year, eliminate all non-salary

... except periodically, keep the President-elect's salary the same as this year's, and reduce the salary of the Executive Professor to the difference between those two items and the amount received.

Concerning the work we should have from our professor or professors this coming year for their salaries, the committee recommends:

1. Assign to Professor Schaefer the task of making personal visits to the pastoral members of the Federation of Lutheran Congregations (FIC) for interviews regarding their doctrinal and confessional position and to report the results of these interviews to the chairman of the Committee on Lutheran Union, with the view toward subsequent fruitful negotiations with this group as soon as our union committee contact with them formally. Costs for these visits is to be paid from the General Fund.

2. Assign to Professor Schaefer the work of preparing textbooks for the following subject matters for which we currently have no texts:

- Catechetics -- first and minimum priority
- Misology -- second priority
- Homiletics -- third priority

3. Assign to each of the professors the task of preparing entrance exams for the provision of page 1 rule 5 (old catalogue) of the secondary catalogue.

4. Assign to Professor Schaefer the work of conducting missionary activity in the Northwest -- New Tancok -- Roseville -- Homer Township region of the south-western Chicago suburbs, with the prayer that a new local congregation might be founded.

5. Retain professor Leasing, as archivist of historical and other conference documents. (See report on completed work in the report of the Seminary President.)

6. Again request Professor Schaefer, under the auspices of the Committee on Missions, obtain the invitation of the particular pastor and congregation involved, to make one or several short-term visits to assist four local congregations with intensive mission work and analysis of potential growth, the travel expenses incurred in this project to be defrayed from the Conference Mission Fund to a limit of \$10,000.00.

In addition to these we ask the convention to assign whatever other duties it feels will make their total work this year commensurate with whatever salary or salaries we are able to pay. Regular reports of all their official and authorized duties should be included in the reports from the Seminary regularly included in our "Concordia Lutheran".

There are but a few of the matters before us as we discuss the continuing crisis for our seminary. We wish to add, however, that while the present situation is problematic, the whole history of our seminary must be considered a very good one. And, in all earnestness that this present distress may be but a brief trial which will be used by the Lord for the eventual welfare and benefit for His believing people, as He promises for all trials. So may our precious little seminary continue to be a shining star in this benighted world.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee on Theological Education

Jonathan G. Schaefer
Victor F. Bloedal
Rev. M.I. Matter
Rev. Randall D. Styx, Chairman

REPORT OF THE SEMINARY PRESIDENT

Dear Brethren in the Lord:

For the first time in the history of our beloved Seminary at Tinley Park there were no regular classes during the usual school term from September to June because of special circumstances affecting our then part-time student. Because of this situation your professors were placed on a work "Sabbatical" as directed by the 1981 convention, and various projects were assigned to them for completion during the usual school year. We thank our heavenly Father that He has kept us in good health and has granted us guidance and strength for our work. We are also grateful that our Conference at last year's convention resolved to keep our Seminary open and ready to welcome qualified students for the vital work of the Christian ministry.

We now proceed to a brief resume of the activities of your professors during the past year. As directed by the 1981 convention, your President was to visit and conduct personal interviews with the pastors of the Fellowship of Lutheran Congregations, a group which had severed its affiliation with the Lutheran Churches of the Reformation over the doctrine of Church Discipline and the steps of excommunication. However, before such visits could be undertaken, President Natterer informed both professors that these pastors were holding a Pastoral Conference in Des Moines, Iowa, on Oct. 26 and 27, 1981, and he requested that we attend as observers, with their approval, in order to become acquainted with them and with their doctrinal stand. We were able to attend and met all of the FLC pastors except Pastor Roeser of Camdenton, Missouri, who was ill. Our attendance therefore took the place of my personal visits to each pastor in that group. Further details on this meeting will be given in the Report of the Committee on Lutheran Union.

Your President was also to make short term visits to our congregations, upon their invitation, to assist them in local mission work. However, no invitations for such assistance were received.

Your President, in consultation with Prof. Mensing, was to complete the first draft of a revised Exposition of Luther's Small Catechism and submit this to our pastors for study four weeks before the 1982 Pastoral Conference. Such draft was finished in May of this year and a copy sent to all our pastors at the end of that month. The Faculty believes that a full revision of the Catechism is not practical at this time but suggests that consideration be given to having a booklet of Annotations printed to be used with the Catechism after the project has been completed.

Your President, in consultation with Prof. Mensing, was to prepare a Comparative Symbolics booklet concerning the doctrines and practices of the various Lutheran bodies in the United States. A first draft of this material has been completed. As soon as the final copy is in readiness, it will be submitted to the Committee on Theol. Education for study and approval and for eventual use in our Seminary.

Your President was to prepare a card-file index of all the books currently in our Seminary library. Recent acquisitions must still be included, and with the final typing of cards this project will be completed.

Professor Mensing, with your President rendering consultative assistance, was to initiate historical archives for our Conference and devise a system to make these materials available upon request. This work has been completed. Especially sources pertaining to last year's essay on "A Popular History of the Concordia Lutheran Conference" have been gathered

not properly identified. Much of this material which is no longer readily available is ready for copying as soon as the need arises. This, then, summarizes the work of your Faculty during the past year according to the directives of the 1981 convention.

With regard to the new Seminary catalog, this was submitted last June to the Committee on Theol. Education for study and approval. This Committee then sent all the materials to the printer early this year. As soon as it has been published, our congregations will be notified.

During the past year we again received letters of inquiry about our Seminary and its training program. The first came from a Pastor Ahn of the Korean Presbyterian church in De Kalb, IL., who was interested in theological study on the Graduate level. Your President gave him all the necessary information, pointing out that we are not set up for graduate work, explaining our policy concerning those outside of our fellowship, and suggesting that he rather continue his studies at an institution of his own denomination. There has been no further response. Another letter came from Kevin Robinson of Ft. Smith, Arkansas, a member of the Episcopal Church. He, too, was given essentially the same information that had been sent to Pastor Ahn, and there has been no reply. Once again these contacts at least show that our Conference and our Seminary are known to others outside of our fellowship.

In April of this year President Natterer asked me as President of our Seminary to respond to a letter which he had received from a small Lutheran church in Miami Beach, Florida, consisting of two men and four women, affiliated with the LCR. One of these men served as lay leader, and once every three months an LCR pastor came to conduct a communion service. This small group desired a resident pastor because the lay leader was in ill health and because the LCR was unable to supply a pastor. The group expressed a willingness to join our Conference if we could meet their specific need and stated it could pay only \$100 per month as salary. In a lengthy telephone discussion your President indicated that we were most sympathetic to their situation, would welcome them into our Conference upon proper procedure, but informed the group that we could not help them at present, adding also that in these serious economic times no pastor could manage a decent living on the salary offered. They were encouraged to continue to seek help from the LCR and also to feel free to contact our President for further information or advice. We pray that the Lord would resolve their problem to His glory and their spiritual welfare.

With regard to our own Candidate, Mr. David T. Mensing, we remind our Conference members that while Peace Congregation at Tinley Park uses his services occasionally as liturgist and in the pulpit, it should be the earnest desire of all of us to make good use of him in the work of Christ's Kingdom so that his talents can be employed through a regular call into the ministry.

As we look ahead, there are no definite prospective students at this writing. We note with regret that Mr. Gerald Luedtke of Park Forest, IL, will no longer be a part-time student at our Seminary since in early May of this year he discontinued his membership with Peace Congregation at Tinley Park because he could no longer accept the Scriptural position of our Conference on Church and Ministry and had embraced the position of the Wisconsin Synod on this doctrine. Despite several hours of bringing Biblical testimony to bear upon his false position, Mr. Luedtke remained firm in his error and thus severed his fellowship with us. We deplore this unscriptural action on his part and pray that the Lord might yet lead

him to repent and return to the true Biblical teaching on Church and Ministry.

The lack of students is a continuing concern for us all, and it is true that keeping our Seminary a permanent thing under our present circumstances poses grave problems. Without a doubt, the entire situation should be re-evaluated each year and directives formulated for the Faculty. The chief thrust for student recruitment, we believe, should be made by the pastors and their congregations as well as through special articles in the Concordia Lutheran, remembering that each issue enters also the homes of other Lutherans not in our fellowship. Students from these areas would, of course, be required to take steps toward joining our Conference before being admitted to our Seminary.

With no one at this time expressing a desire to prepare for the ministry in our midst, the picture is a gloomy one. But the value of our Seminary is not to be denied. It is valuable not only as regards the authority to operate which the State of Illinois has granted us, although this is not of major importance, yet we would not want to jeopardize this, but especially as regards the orthodox theological training program which we offer and which God, by His grace, has richly blessed in the past.

All matters pertaining to our Seminary and its future will require fervent prayer by all of us together with thorough Christian analysis and sound and wise decisions. May our Lord and Savior direct us all to resolve the difficult issues before us in a manner pleasing to Him, and in all our resolutions may His Word be our sole Guide!

In closing this report, may I on behalf of the Faculty sincerely thank all our pastors and the members of their congregations for their prayers, words of encouragement, and generous gifts in the past as well as Peace Congregation for the use of its facilities! God bless you for your interest and support and enable you to continue to pray and work and give for this vital cause in our midst! In the light of our convention motto, may our daily prayer be:

Lord, bless Thy Word alway,
Our souls forever feeding;
And may we never lack
A faithful shepherd's leading!

Respectfully submitted,

O.W.Schaefer, President

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS

Dear Brethren in Christ:

In connection with our Mission congregation, Trinity Lutheran Church, the Committee would like to submit on their behalf the identical subsidy request as in previous years, the sum of \$5,184. This request has, as of April 6, 1982, been submitted to our Finance Committee chairman so that it has already been taken into consideration in that committee's preparations of the budget.

Although the Committee did not receive a written mid-year report from Trinity, it was in consultation by phone with Pastor Styx concerning the congregation's well-being and progress and understood that some canvassing of the Coos Bay area was being done. Pastor Styx will provide the convention with details on this and other congregational happenings in his annual interest report.

Concerning the Mission Guidelines which were developed by this committee during the past year, all of the Conference congregations received our proposal about the middle of March. As the cover letter to these proposed Guidelines stated, "A resolution was adopted at our last regular convention directing the Committee on Missions to devise carefully drawn guidelines for the granting of building loans to Conference mission congregations." The time has come at this convention to accept, alter, or reject our proposal. We hope the Brethren have given careful thought to it and are ready to discuss the matter profitably for the furtherance of the Conference's work together.

In regard to the Mission Committee's "Notice to Independent Lutheran Congregations," which has been appearing in the Concordia Lutheran, it seems there was one response this past year. A Mr. Kenneth Skogen of Gularis, Minnesota, wrote on Sept. 26, 1981. He spoke highly of the Concordia Lutheran, expressed interest in our Conference history and in our Fellowship relations with the LCR and the FLC, and wondered why these two groups split.

In response he was informed that the Conference Secretary would send him a copy of the 1981 Proceedings, and our Conference's puzzlement at the details of the LCR/FLC split was expressed. Then, in a second letter, Nov. 30, 1981, Mr. Skogen sent a copy of a response to an inquiry he had made to R.J. Lietz (Pres. of the FLC) which explained the reasons for the LCR/FLC split. A copy of the Lietz explanation was sent to the CLU chairman for his information, which can be mentioned in connection with his report.

May God continue to bless all our mission endeavors to the glory of His name and to the welfare of immortal souls!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. O. W. Schaefer
Mr. Loren Dirksen
Mr. H. Daniel Mensing

PRELIMINARY SUGGESTIONS FOR
GUIDELINES FOR THE GRANTING OF BUILDING LOANS TO MISSION CONGREGATIONS

(These suggestions were drawn up by the Mission Committee Chairman and are submitted to the persons concerned for study, correction, adjustment, improvement, clarification--or to be superceded by other guidelines as study and conditions require.)

- 1.) The Conference shall not lend more than one-half its assets to any one mission congregation for building purposes. Normally, any monies lent will be drawn from the Mission Fund and/or any other fund(s) deemed appropriate by the Conference in Convention assembled.
- 2.) Monies will not be lent for building purposes except in areas where there is demonstrable growth potential.
- 3.) The prospective building site should be in an area reasonably accessible to the general public.
- 4.) Planning of the building itself should take into consideration future growth and the potential need for additional worship/activity space.
- 5.) Plans must be drawn up in accordance with local building codes together with projected completion date and accurate building costs estimated.
- 6.) In addition to the total building/site costs, the mission congregation's loan request must include: 1.) the amount of loan money needed; 2.) proof that the balance can actually be supplied by the congregation; 3.) a repayment schedule to be put into affect after the completion of the building project.
- 7.) The mission congregation shall appoint a building committee from its membership to investigate and implement the necessary work in supplying the Mission Committee with the information in 2-6 above, 4 months prior to the next convention.
- 8.) Upon receipt of the information in 2-6 above by the Mission Committee, the committee shall submit the loan request and any necessary additional information to the Conference congregations no less than three months prior to the next annual convention for their consideration.
- 9.) No loan will be made to any mission congregation without a 2/3 majority vote from the delegates in convention assembled.
- 10.) When a building loan has been granted by the Conference, the mission congregation shall work with the Conference Treasurer directly in receiving the loan money, either in a lump sum or in increments as building proceeds, so that the loan money is disbursed with the best possible stewardship.

Submitted for consideration 11/10/81 by

Rev. James W. Luedtke, chairman
The Committee on Missions

Report of the Committee on Lutheran Union
1982

Our Problems:

It should be remembered, as reported in the 1981 Proceedings, p. 36, that "... a series of internal problems ... in the Lutheran Churches of the Reformation, ... our Committee had three weekly bilateral meetings with this group in February, 1979. Since then, we had hoped to obtain more sufficient and official information on developments within the L. C. R. However, we received none, and therefore did not continue the resumption of meetings at this time. Thus negotiations have remained at a deadstill."

Likewise, our overtures to the Federation of Lutheran Congregations for negotiations was refused by the F. L. C. Convention until a final completion of negotiations with the L. C. R. regarding Matthew 18:17.

It should be clear ... that, while our Committee on behalf of the Conference is actively trying to work toward a God-pleasing union on a basis of God's Word, other groups, by their actions and actions, seem only to frustrate our efforts to make negotiations possible.

Our Convention (1981 Proceedings, p. 52) authorized Professor Schneider to meet individually the various pastoral members of the F. L. C., for personal interviews regarding their doctrinal and confessional position, and to convey the results of these interviews to the Chairman of the Committee on Lutheran Union. In the view toward subsequent negotiations with this group as soon as it expressed its willingness to meet with our union committee.

Nevertheless, we were welcomed to meet at the Pastoral Conference of the F. L. C. as observers on October 26, 1981, and our President Matterson gave his approval and request for such a joint meeting.

At that meeting, conducted in a friendly and Christian atmosphere, Pastor Ross presented an exegetical study of Matthew 18:15-17. Although the text does not show this, the F. L. C. holds that a "face to face confrontation" is mandatory, and that the L. C. R. position is neo-Lutheran.

We were not given an opportunity at that conference, in spite of our request, to comment on the presentation and on our Scriptural position as set forth in our Proceedings, 1978, p. 28, since it was acknowledged that this meeting was not held for the purpose of negotiation.

We are cognizant of the recommendations of the former Committee, 1981 Proceedings, p. 37, which were adopted by the Convention, p. 52. Nevertheless, your Committee was not able to carry out these recommendations because something very sad and deplorable has been taking place in our own midst.

Already in 1978, aberrations in the doctrine of the Church and Ministry were introduced into our midst by Pastor James W. Luedtke, and we sought to correct him in his false position at a special meeting connected with the C. L. U. in August of that year. Again, in February, 1979, we met with him, also in connection with the work of our C. L. U. At our Pastoral Conference, June, 1979, the pastors discussed the matter with him again at quite some length, but, instead of the matter being fully resolved with Pastor Luedtke, it was decided to make a special study of the Church and Ministry at the 1980 Pastoral Conference.

Finally, at this Pastoral Conference of 1980, after a lengthy meeting, Pastor Luedtke gave us his assurance that the matter was now completely resolved, that he no longer leaned to the position of the Wisconsin Synod and the CoLC, but that he held to our position on the Church and Ministry as set forth in the confession, "This Scriptural Position We Still Hold." The minutes of this Pastoral Conference were unanimously approved at the 1981 Pastoral Conference.

Nevertheless, early in this present year, Pastor Luedtke re-introduced into our midst the same doctrinal aberrations and systematically pressed them upon us through a lengthy essay and much correspondence. It is now evident (at the writing of this report) that he no longer holds our position on the Church and Ministry but, instead, that of the Wisconsin Synod and CoLC, and that he has at least basically made known his position to his congregation in Wilmot.

This now definite disunity in our own fellowship made it necessary for your

Committee to consult together in the early spring of this year as to the advisability for us to carry out the afore-mentioned recommendations. It was unanimously decided by the Committee that it would not be fitting or advisable for us, at this time, to make any overtures for doctrinal negotiation with other Lutheran groups.

It is our earnest hope and prayer that the newly elected Committee on Lutheran Union will be able, under God's grace, to make a more favorable report at the next convention of our Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

The Committee on Lutheran Union
Pastor H. David Mensing, Chairman
Pastor Randall D. Styx, Secretary
Professor O. W. Schaefer
Mr. David T. Mensing, c.r.m.

RECEIPTS	GENERAL	SEMINARY	MISSION	LIBRARY
St. John's - Lebanon	600.00	3000.00	693.00	
St. Luke's - Seattle	534.00*	1058.00*	130.00	10.00*
Peace - Tinley Park	950.00	5230.00**	2960.00**	
St. Stephen's - Wilmot	364.00	4160.00	1210.00***	
Trinity - Coos Bay	125.00	408.80		
Interest Earnings ****	209.84	50.84	4867.19	190.63
Convention Collection	340.52	610.00	600.00	
Seminary Loan Payments	600.00			
TOTAL	\$3,723.36#	\$14,517.64	\$10,460.19	\$200.63

	BUILDING	RETIREMENT	TRAVEL	TUITION
Interest Earnings	1005.76	1176.26	1.41	314.00
Tuition Payments				96.00
Tuition Matching Payments				96.00
TOTAL	\$1,005.76	\$1,176.26	\$1.41	\$505.00

EXPENSES	BUDGETED	EXPENDED		EXPENDED
- GENERAL FUND -			- LIBRARY FUND -	
Op'l Sub'y Script. Pub.	1200.00	1200.00	Seminary Books	47.77
Telephone	150.00	620.01	TOTAL	\$47.77
Travel	600.00	240.00	- BUILDING FUND -	
Convention	300.00	-- ##	TOTAL	\$ 0.00
Tuition Matching Prog'm	100.00	96.00	- RETIREMENT FUND -	
Miscellaneous	300.00	498.52	TOTAL	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$2,650.00	\$2,654.53#	- TRAVEL FUND -	
- SEMINARY FUND -			Convention Trans.	102.22
Professor's Salary	7272.00	7272.00	TOTAL	\$102.22
Prof. House Allowance	4092.00	4092.00	- TUITION FUND -	
Assoc. Prof. Salary	2388.00	2388.00	TOTAL	\$ 0.00
Facilities	100.00	100.00		
Library	12.00	7.99		
Stock	69.00	--		
Periodicals	75.00	61.25		
Miscellaneous	20.00	12.40		
Seminary Loan Payments	- 0 -	600.00		
TOTAL	\$14,028.00	\$14,533.64		
- MISSION FUND -				
Mission Subsidy	5184.00	5184.00		
TOTAL	\$5,184.00	\$5,184.00		

SUMMARY OF FUNDS	BALANCE 6/1/81	RECEIPTS	EXPENSES	BALANCE 5/31/82	NET CHANGE
General	3233.82	3883.43#	2814.60#	4302.65	+ 1068.83
Seminary	70.67	14517.64	14533.64	54.67	- 16.00
Mission	28233.51	10460.19	5184.00	33509.70	+ 5276.19
Library	1485.26	200.63	47.77	1638.12	+ 152.86
Building	7976.93	1005.76	--	8982.69	+ 1005.76
Retirement	8286.08	1176.26	--	9462.34	+ 1176.26
Travel	100.81	1.41	102.22	--	- 100.81
Tuition	2321.36	506.00	--	2827.36	+ 506.00
TOTAL	\$51,708.44	\$31,751.32	\$22,682.23	\$60,777.53	+ 9069.09

* Includes special offerings of: \$300.00 - General, \$122.00 - Seminary, \$10.00 - Library.

** Includes special offerings of: \$10.00 Memorial Wreath & \$150.00 Seminary Loan payment - Seminary, \$500.00 Memorial Wreath - Mission.

*** Includes \$10.00 special offering. **** Total Interest Earnings: \$7,815.93.

Difference of \$160.07 in these figures reflects re-imburements to this fund.

Bill for 1/2 the cost of hosting the 1981 Convention was not submitted by St. Stephen's congregation and should be recognized as a contribution by them.

(32) Respectfully Submitted, Jeffery W. Styx - Treas.

Report of the Finance Committee concerning the past Fiscal Year

Dear Brethren in Christ,

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow!" Can we say anything less when we see how richly the Lord continues to bless us? Indeed not! For in spite of the trying economic times that we've been plagued with, members out of work, reduced hours of work for others, ever increasing costs just to survive, and in general great financial distresses, our dear Lord has continued to bless us. We note that in just one year our funds have increased a record amount of over \$7,800.00 in interest earnings. When we look at the total end-of-the-year figures we see that our balance is in excess of \$60,000.00. This being an overall increase of slightly over \$9,000.00! This comes in spite of nearly \$23,000.00 in expenses.

We started out the year with an unusual Convention collection of \$1,550.00 contributed to several funds. Through the year we also have received some other special offerings. Starting with the General Fund; an offering of \$300.00 by a member of St. Luke's and a offering of \$20.00 from a member of Peace. In the Seminary Fund; an offering of \$122.00 from a member of St. Luke's, a \$10.00 Memorial Wreath in memory of Mrs. Lydia Schaefer ^{from a member of Peace,} and an offering of \$150.00 for payments to the outstanding Seminary loan from a member of Peace. In the Mission Fund; a Memorial Wreath in memory of Mr. Henry Boehman to whom the Lord gave everlasting peace and joy with Him late last fall, a \$10.00 offering from a member of St. Stephen's, and we note here that St. John's congregation has continually given well over their pledged figure each month. In the Seminary Library Fund; a \$10.00 Memorial Wreath in memory of Mrs. Lydia Schaefer from a member of St. Luke's. We also make note of the effectual contribution by St. Stephen's congregation concerning the cost of hosting the last Annual Convention for once again they have not charged the Conference for half of their costs as provided for in the bylaws of the constitution of our conference.

On the other side, one congregation was forced to decrease its support in all funds to which they contribute; this action taking place at the mid-point of our fiscal year. In spite of this reduction we were able to meet the ongoing expenses without any real problems. We also made an expenditure out of the Travel Fund (by authorization of the president) to help a member congregation send it's delegates to the convention.

During the year there was great concern expressed by a member of our conference concerning the investments of our funds and their safety in light of the current state of economics in our country. Although the Board of Directors decided against any directive for change there your Treasurer, concerned that the conference's funds be kept in the safest possible way, has decided to move our funds into government securities as the current bank certificates mature.

Currently we have 8 accounts; 1 checking, 2 passbook savings, and 5 certificates with varying rates of interest earnings.

This year we also worked in conjunction with the Committee on Missions to devise a set of guidelines for use in helping Mission congregations. The results of this you'll find in the report of the Committee on Missions.

In March of ~~this~~ year a letter requesting the financial support of the conference for the coming year was sent out to the congregations for their consideration. The responses to ~~this~~ request/^{were}received in total toward the end of April; the results showing that the monthly pledged support for the coming year would be the same as the previous/^{few}months with the exception of one congregation's support being somewhat less in one fund. Because the difference between the pledged support and the anticipated expenses was very substantial, a second request was sent to the congregations for their re-consideration. Responses to this letter were all finally received in total about a week before this convention. The results of this will be discussed in the report concerning the next year's budget.

On the whole, in spite of a few things, this past year has once again been a very positive one. Expenditures were very close to the expected budgeted figures with one exception, namely the telephone expense. Costs there were FOUR times the anticipated figure; there is more than one reason for this condition. A few suggestions on this matter will be expressed in the report on the up-coming budget. At the present time conditions suggest that this next year will meet with definite difficulties in our conference, financially as well as in other respects. When we are dealing with the problems that beface us let us not ever forget how richly our precious Savior has blessed us in times past. Let that help motivate us to handle these current trials with a true love for all concerned, using our perfect example Jesus Christ as our guide to deal with these matters in true, god-pleasing patience, love, and understanding as well as with an unselfish heart, so that we may move forward in our work. Let not our trials bog us down lest we forget our real purpose which is: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Always to His glory!

The Finance Committee:

Loren Dirksen

Dale Ellis

Kent Frerichs

Jeffery W. Styx, chairman

Report Concerning the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 1982 - '83

Dear Brethren in Christ,

The planning for this fiscal year's budget has met with some difficulty, still the Finance Committee is trying to work with the problems that face us so that we may be able to plan for the coming fiscal needs. It is our hope that in spite of the problems before us that we will all work together to achieve an agreeable, workable solution to the projected financial needs. We do recognize that none of us can always have things exactly the way we would like them and thus we have to work toward a solution that will work for the good of all. May our Lord guide us in these things, always to His glory.

In the beginning of March the Finance Committee sent a letter to all member congregations requesting their estimated financial support for the coming year. The results of this letter were received in total toward the end of April. These figures per month are as follows:

	General	Seminary	Mission
St. John's	50.00	250.00	40.00
St. Luke's	18.00	72.00	10.00
Peace	65.00	375.00	175.00
St. Stephen's	30.00	350.00	100.00
Trinity	10.00	35.00	
Total per month:	<u>\$173.00</u>	<u>\$1,082.00</u>	<u>\$325.00</u>
Total - Yearly	\$2,076.00	\$12,984.00	\$3,900.00

Because these total figures were less than the previous year's totals and less than the past year's expenditures, and also because the projected expenses for this coming year are even higher, the Finance Committee chairman sent out a second request for re-consideration of the support to the conference. The responses to this second letter were not received in total until just about one week prior to this convention. For these reasons and also because the chairman of this committee did not feel that it could give the congregations a realistic budget proposal (normally to be included in the Prospectus) with the information available to us at the time, no such budget was submitted. (We do however have a budget proposal and worksheet at this time to aid in our financial deliberations.) Responses to this second request were unchanged. One congregation however didn't feel at the present time that they could reconsider their support in light of the problems that beset them. Peace congregation, although they could not make any increases in their support, decided not to charge the Seminary the usual \$100.00 per year facilities fee. One congregation said they might even have to reconsider their support later in the year due to local circumstances though they felt for

the time being the need to make a change would not be necessary. So the figures we have to work with after this second request are the same as those received from the first request.

In conjunction with your budget worksheet we will go through the funds one by one and explain the details or the reasons for the proposals as they are.

In the General Fund we had a request for an increase in the Operational subsidy of Scriptural Publications of \$300.00 per year due to increased costs. This convention has now authorized an additional \$300.00 to this figure for this year only to cover current deficits thus making the increase this year to \$600.00 or a total projected expense this year of \$1,800.00. Expected increased telephone expenses are projected at approximately \$300.00. Travel expenses for officers to this convention total approximately \$1,400.00. With an additional allocation of a conservative figure of \$600.00 for anticipated expenditures by the Seminary Professor to meet with the pastors of the F.L.C., as proposed by the Committee on Theological Education, leaves the projected figure approximately \$2,000.00. Cost for the convention will remain the same. There will not be any Tuition Matching Payments this year. Miscellaneous expenses are anticipated to be approximately \$500.00. Reflecting these projected expenses the Proposal #1 is offered. The only item in this proposal that reflects a decrease in the anticipated expenditures is the telephone; there being the hope that all will try to cut down in this area. This proposal totals \$5,000.00 in expenditures for the year and when compared with pledges totaling \$2,076.00 we note that this does not even come to half of that figure and so we are left short of meeting the budget by over \$2,900.00. If the proposal to pay off the Seminary Loan is used, together with anticipated interest earnings, this negative figure is reduced to approximately \$2,200.00. This would effectively at the end of the year reduce our current balance to approximately \$2,100.00. In an effort to minimize this reduction the Proposal #2 is offered. Keeping the Operational Subsidy the same as the past year, authorizing no phone expenses of any kind (member congregations to foot this bill), & reducing travel to only expended figure to date. (Possibly the expense for travel by the Seminary Professor as proposed by the C.T.E. to come from the Mission Fund as a Mission endeavor.) It was also thought to have the hosting congregation of the convention to pay for it's expenses in full, however this year we could not rightly do so for the hosting congregation has expected to receive this and so have adjusted their costs for this convention, therefore this figure will stay at \$300.00. A cut in the miscellaneous expenditures was considered but with the telephone being cut, the costs in postage is expected to increase to offset this cut therefore this figure is kept the same as the first proposal. This proposal totals \$3,400.00 for the year and when compared with pledges totaling \$2,076.00

we find that we are short by approximately \$1,300.00 of meeting this proposal. Without the Seminary Loan Payments to offset this deficit we are left with only projected interest earnings of approximately \$100.00 to lessen this deficit to \$1,200.00 over the year which would leave the year's end balance at approximately \$3,100.00. Because there is a balance in the General Fund capable of sustaining our current endeavors for at least this next year proposal #1 may be the wiser choice at this time.

In the Seminary Fund because of current conditions we can not even consider an increase in salaries for the professors, still if it were possible we would definitely make it a consideration. Since Peace congregation is not charging the conference this year for the Seminary facilities we won't have this as an expense. Library, stock, periodicals, and miscellaneous have been left at a "status quo". Payments to eliminate the long outstanding seminary loan are being considered; \$600.00 is currently outstanding on this loan. The total figure for the projected Seminary expenses is \$14,528.00. Because the difference between the total projected figure and the pledged support of \$12,984.00 is very substantial, such that current salaries could not even be met, proposal #1 is offered with the following explanations: Because the conference is the primary source of earning for the full-time Seminary professor, upon which he bases his regular on going living expenses, your committee does not feel it wise to make a cut here, especially in the current economic times. Still there has to be some cut for we don't have an excess to lean on in the balance of this fund but rather a \$600.00 deficit. So just as cuts are made in business, so we too will also have to consider making some cuts. Because the conference is not the primary source of earnings for the associate professor we feel it best to make any cuts here. In proposal #1 this would be an actual sabbatical without pay with the possibilities of a change at a later date. The idea of having "extra work" when there is a lack of students is, we believe, questionable when there are no future prospects but when those conditions exist in addition to a lack of funds to support it, that is called deficit spending (or spending something you don't have) and this committee believes that this is not something that is at all advisable. In light of these current conditions a sabbatical without pay is one possible solution. Any monies that may be needed for the building up of the Seminary library can come from the Library Fund so this expense was eliminated. In order to keep our Seminary current the periodicals have been included. This could however be an extension of the library and so could be funded out of the Library Fund; this was not proposed as such for the amount is insignificant by comparison to the other items. Since the Seminary is basically inactive there is no real need for the stock or miscellaneous items and so were eliminated. In an attempt to get this fund back

into the black we have included the \$600.00 due on the outstanding loan in the budget. This proposal totals \$12,039.00 and would leave us with a positive balance at the end of the year. This also leaves a little room to work in the event that one of our congregations should have to cut their support during the year. If however the convention decides against this plan an alternate plan is offered, this one includes the associate professor with a cut in pay and an elimination of the Seminary loan payment, everything else remains the same as the first plan. This would leave us with no real change in the year-end balance and also leave us with a \$600.00 debt in this fund.

In the Mission Fund the committee learned that the subsidy request will be the same as the past year. Pledged support to this fund is \$3,900.00; when compared to the Mission budget of \$5,184.00 we find that this leaves us \$1,284.00 short. When including the projected interest earnings of \$2,434.00, this would leave this fund with a net plus figure of \$1,150.00 at year's end. This fund looks to be in the best shape at this time.

Your committee is aware of the problems that are facing a sister congregation and of the possibility of their cutting or totally eliminating their support to the conference. It is felt that in order to be fair to them, so as not to offend in any way, and to be fair with the rest of the conference that we should accept their word on their continued support to the conference especially after the letter of June 20, 1982 which they sent to our president, this letter being received by him just this past thursday. We do however agree that there should be a contingency plan in the event that things should change. Looking at that aspect on a fund to fund basis we note the following: In the General Fund there is no problem for the pledged amount to this fund is not that substantial to greatly affect it besides there being a sufficient balance here should they not continue their support. In the Seminary Fund, using the proposal #1, we have a partial reserve in that the Seminary loan payment could be simply not paid and with the anticipated positive figure of \$945.00 we have a \$1,500.00 back-up. If this should show to be insufficient then we still have the back-up, by resolution of the conference at a former convention, to go into the Seminary Building fund for whatever needs should arise; there being sufficient funds for a back-up here. We should note here though that this is only in the event the need should arise from unpredictable events and as noted by the resolution, is not to be considered as a basis for making a budget. We also note from former resolutions that it is not the desire of the conference to make a budget based on current balances (under normal circumstances) but rather only on anticipated receipts. In the Mission Fund there is sufficient funds in the balance to use in the event of any problem.

One other item that should be considered this next year is the possibility

of retiring our Seminary professor if the current lack of students and financial problems should continue, for in just a little over a year he will be of retirement age. This suggestion to be considered by the C.T.E. in conjunction with the Seminary professor. With this arrangement he still could teach on a part-time basis if such an arrangement were agreeable to all concerned. This is only a suggestion but should be looked into this coming year to see if it could be a workable solution to our current problems in the Seminary fund.

In our preparing of these proposals we have tried to keep in mind the various resolutions, needs, funds, and all the various ideas that have been input to our committee. We should also note here that monies that are contributed for a specific purpose such as Missions, Seminary, etc. are often given specifically with that intention. It is not right then for us under normal circumstances to take monies that have been given to specific funds and use them in some other place, for if the contributor wanted them to be used in other places these funds would be given there to begin with. Therefore unless otherwise authorized by the conference we are obligated to work within the limitations of the funds contributed to the specific funds. This committee has tried to consider all the various aspects involved in making a budget and based on this we have submitted two proposals for you to consider, not making any recommendations of any one proposal over another. We realize that they may not be just exactly what every individual may desire but hope that all of us will work together to make a peaceful solution to this financial problem. We have included space for any additional proposals that might be more workable but these first two are given here for your consideration. We welcome any suggestions or comments that you may have to offer.

Dedicated to working toward a peaceful solution to our current financial problems, always to the glory of our Precious Savior,

The Finance Committee

Loren Darksen

Dale Ellis

Kent Frerichs

Jeffery W. Styx, chairman

SCRIPTURAL PUBLICATIONS
(Concordia Lutheran Conference)

FINANCIAL REPORT
6/1/81 - 5/31/82

Cash Balance, June 1, 1981		\$	0.00
<u>Add Cash Receipts:</u>			
Sunday School Lessons	\$		325.28
Concordia Lutheran Subscriptions			328.00
Conference Subsidy		1200.00	
Books and Tracts		72.38	
Other Receipts		85.00	
Total Receipts		\$	2010.66
Total Cash Available		\$	2010.66
<u>Less Disbursements:</u>			
Gas and Electricity		0.00*	
Rent (P. F. Luedtke Building)		550.00*	
<u>Material and Labor Costs:</u>			
Sunday School Lessons (Material Only)		349.85	
Concordia Lutheran (Material and Labor)		824.08*	
Other Conference Costs (Material)		131.23	
<u>Mailing Costs:</u>			
Sunday School Lessons		-	
Concordia Lutheran		150.00	
Supplies		5.50	
Equipment Repairs		0.00	
Property Tax		0.00*	
Total Expenditures		\$	2010.66
Cash Balance, May 31, 1982		\$	0.00
<u>Additional Fiscal Information:</u>			
Petty Cash	\$		6.61
Fixed Assets (Original Investment - no Depreciation applied)		5033.29	
Cash Receipts after 5/31/82		138.30	
Unpaid Receivable (Inv. No.571)		20.80	
<u>*Unpaid Expenses:</u>			
Gas and Elec. bill not tendered by Rev. Bloedel (Unknown)			
Property Tax bill not tendered by Rev. Bloedel (Unknown)			
June rent unpaid as of 5/31/82		50.00	
Labor (Amount due J.A. Schmitt as of 5/31/82)		344.96	

V. K. Bloedel
V. K. Bloedel, Business Manager

Report of the Auditing Committee

We, the undersigned, have examined the financial records of the Conference treasurer and find them, to the best of our knowledge, to be correct, accurate, and factual. We commend him for his well-maintained books.

We have also examined the books of the Business Manager of the Publishing House, Scriptural Publications, and have found them to be in good order. We commend him for his very thorough and accurate records.

Respectfully submitted,

June 26, 1982

Rev. O. H. Schaefer
Paul F. Smith
Sheldon B. Fiquet

Concordia Lutheran Conference

Statistical Report

(by Congregations)

Fiscal Year: 1981 - 82

Respectfully submitted,

David T. Mensing, c.r.m.
Statistician

PEACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
Tinley Park, IL 60477
H. David Mensing, Pastor
O. W. Schaefer, Asst. Pas

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Seattle, WA 98118
P. R. Bloedel, Pastor

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Lebanon, OR 97355
M. L. Natterer, Pastor

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wilmot, SD 57279
James W. Luedtke, Pastor

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Randall D. Styx, Pastor

Membership

Baptized Members	85	44	92	86	22
Communicant Members	64	25	69	55	18
Voting Members	20	11	15	20	7
Children in Sunday School	13	10	20	23	2
Adults in the Bible Class	20	18	22	30	14
Received by Transfer	0	1	1	1	0
Received by Confirmation	0	0	2	0	0
Lost by Transfer	1	0	0	0	0
Lost by other circumstance	9	0	1	3	0

Official Acts

Infant Baptisms	4	0	5	4	1
Adult Baptisms	0	0	1	0	0
Confirmations of Children	0	0	2	0	0
Confirmations of Adults	0	0	0	0	0
Marriages Solemnized	0	0	1	0	0
Funerals and/or Burials	1	0	0	2	0

Auxiliary Staff

Sunday School Teachers	5	4	3	5	1
Lay Superintendents	1	0	0	0	0
Elected Church Officers	12	8	9	8	4
Organists	2	1	2	2	4
Choir Members	9	6	8	7	0

Property

Church Facilities Owned?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Church Facilities Rented?	No	No	No	No	Yes
Acreage (w. or w/o buildings)	7 5/8	2/3	.355	1 1/4	.2

MINUTES OF THE 31st Annual Convention of the Concordia Lutheran Conference

Friday Sessions

The 31st Annual Convention of the Concordia Lutheran Conference opened at 9:30 a.m., on June 25, 1982, at St. John's Lutheran Church of Lebanon, Oregon, with a Divine Service in which President Natterer, the local pastor, conducted the liturgy and preached a sermon on Rev. 2:10, with the theme: Be Thou Faithful Unto Death and I will give Thee a Crown of Life.

Sessions convened at 11:02 a.m. with a prayer by President Natterer.

The first matter of business was the appointing of convention committees as presented in the convention prospectus, page 2. The appointments were:

Auditing Committee: Pastor Schaefer, Ted Fitzwater, and (for the position originally designated for a delegate from St. Stephen's, whose delegates were absent) Robert Bloedel. It was noted that in Mr. Bloedel's absence, Mr. Paul Luedtke would serve as his alternate.

Committee on Registration and Excuses:

Pastor Styx, Francis Williams, and John Dirksen

Nominating and Elections Committee:

Pastor Mensing, Robert Bloedel (Paul Luedtke, Alternate), and Loren Dirksen

Resolutions Committee:

Pastor Bloedel, Stephen Bloedel, and David T. Mensing

The initial report of the Committee on Registration and Excuses was given by Pastor Styx. He reported:

a) regarding credentials for seating at this convention (see page 19 of these Proceedings);

After this portion of the committee's report, a question was raised concerning the seating of Pastor Schaefer as a lay delegate. It was answered by the Secretary that the Board of Directors had appointed a special committee to study the constitutional question involved and to report to the next regular Board meeting next June and through the Board possibly to the next convention, and had resolved in the meantime to follow the precedent of considering him eligible for conference offices reserved for pastors established since 1969 and that of accepting his seating as a lay delegate established by his being seating as an alternate in 1974.

b) concerning a letter addressed to the convention from St. Stephen's Ev. Lutheran Church (This letter was read to the convention, as was President Natterer's letter to them of June 7, 1982, which was cited by them as a prime basis for their decision not to send lay or pastoral delegates.) and

c) concerning registered attendance; specifically, that at that time registered attendance totaled nine persons, including one pastor, 5 lay delegates, one alternate delegate, and two visitors.

The comment was made that this report of the Committee on Registration and Excuses really ought to precede the business of appointing convention committees. It was then moved and seconded to receive this report of the committee. The motion was carried.

The annual Report of the President was given by President Natterer. (See page 16 of these Proceedings.) Vice President Mensing took the chair during this report.

In his report President Natterer summarized his dealings with Pastor Luedtke concerning his position and essay on the Doctrine of the Church and Ministry, some of the results of his position, the article on Objective Justification which was sent to Christian News for publication in addition to its publication in our conference periodical, and other matters of interest of the past year. It was moved and seconded to receive this report subject to review. The motion was carried. Vice President Mensing appointed Pastor Styx, Mr. Stephen Bloedel, and Mr. David T. Mensing (c.r.m.) to serve as the committee to review the President's report. It was moved and seconded to accept this appointment. The motion was carried.

President Natterer then resumed the chair and proceeded with the presentation of the agenda. After noting a few typographical corrections, the motion to adopt the agenda as prepared and printed was carried.

There had been no applications for new members to the Conference.

For the Press Committee (Vice President and Secretary in consultation with the local pastor) Vice President Mensing gave the following brief oral report:

In view of the sad and regrettable situation facing us at this convention, the committee has made no reports to the press at this time.

It was moved and seconded to receive this report. The motion was carried.

After announcements, the convention recessed for the noon meal.

The Friday afternoon sessions were opened with a devotion led by Pastor Mensing. The assembly sang Hymn 485 and Pastor Mensing read Matthew 9: 35-38 and offered a prayer.

The Resolutions Committee then presented its resolution concerning the letter received from St. Stephen's Ev. Lutheran Church in lieu of its credentials. (See the full text of this resolution on page 56 of these Proceedings.) The resolution was moved and seconded and carried unanimously by rising vote.

Pastor Schaefer then presented the first part of his essay, "Faithfulness on the part of Pastors and Members". He presented Part I of the essay, dealing with pastors. (See text of this essay on page 9 of these Proceedings.) In the discussion of this first part of the essay the following were mentioned: a) A certain Rev. Allsbery on whom the publication "Christian News" had been focusing was pointed out as a glaring example of one who was not a faithful pastor, but one who lorded it over his flock. b) The word "admonish" toward the end of the 10th paragraph of Part I must be understood in a narrower sense than that which is commonly used by us, which wider sense includes the teaching and instruction which is to be given in meekness. c) The responsibility of a pastor to remain faithful to his Lord and Savior is quite awesome when all the points brought out in the essay are put together. Our laymen need to realize this and not lose sight of it from day to day, especially when they see their pastors sometimes but once a week. d) There was emphasis on preaching as the most important part of the pastor's work.

The recommendations of the Board of Directors were then presented to the convention. There were two recommendations, one concerning Pastor Luedtke for his position on the Doctrine of Church and Ministry and the other concerning St. Stephen's Ev. Lutheran Church, his congregation. (See the full text of these recommendations on pages 54,55 of these Proceedings.) It was moved and seconded to adopt the first recommendation regarding Pastor Luedtke (recognizing him to be no longer in fellowship with us). This recommendation was carried unanimously by rising vote. It was moved and seconded to adopt the second recommendation, regarding St. Stephen's (offering again to send at their invitation a

special delegation to discuss the doctrine and related matters with them and urging them to take proper action without undue delay). This recommendation was also carried unanimously by rising vote.

The convention then broke for a recess.

Following the break the Finance Committee presented its report concerning the past fiscal year. (See page 33 of these Proceedings.) The annual Treasurer's Report was also presented by the Treasurer, Jeffery W. Styx. As the Treasurer had noted that some of the conference funds were being transferred to government securities, there was a question concerning them. It was answered by one of those present that government securities were safer than bank or savings and loan accounts. It was also noted that the interest rate on government securities was only slightly lower. It was moved and seconded to receive this report of the Finance Committee. It was asked if it might not be possible to receive Treasurer's reports a little earlier than during the second month following the month with which a specific report is concerned. (The Treasurer, as had others before him, had chosen to make regular reports on a monthly basis.) It was noted by the Secretary, who had formerly held the position of Treasurer, that it was not realistically possible to complete the many hours of work in sufficient time for reports to reach the congregations before their meetings of the second month after the one reported on, in part because these meetings normally come toward the beginning of each month. There was no formal action on this matter.

The elections of officers and committees was then conducted by the Nominating and Elections Committee.

Nominated for President: Pastors Bloedel, Mensing, Schaefer, and Styx
Elected: P.R. Bloedel

Nominated for Vice President: Pastors Mensing, Natterer, Schaefer, and Styx
Elected: H.D. Mensing

Nominated for Secretary: Pastors Natterer, Schaefer, and Styx
Elected: M.L. Natterer

Nominated for Treasurer: Mssrs. Jeffery W. Styx and Jonathan C. Schaefer
Elected: Jeffery W. Styx

Nominated for Board Member-at-large from the Far West: Mssrs. Robert Bloedel, Stephen Bloedel, Victor K. Bloedel, Ted. D. Fischer, and John R. Dirksen.
Elected: John R. Dirksen

Nominated for Board Member-at-large from the Mid-west: Mssrs. Lloyd E. Martin, David T. Mensing (c.r.m.), and H. Daniel Mensing.
Elected: David T. Mensing (c.r.m.)

The nominated (and elected) slates for Conference Standing Committees were as follows (first named individual as chairman):

Editorial Committee:

A.	B.	C. Elected	D.
Pastor Schaefer	Pastor Schaefer	Pastor Schaefer	Pastor Styx
Pastor Styx	Pastor Bloedel	Pastor Natterer	Pastor Natterer
Robert Bloedel	David T. Mensing	David T. Mensing	Robert Bloedel

Committee on Theological Education

A. Elected	B.
Pastor Styx	Pastor Natterer
Pastor Natterer	Pastor Styx
Victor K. Bloedel	Victor K. Bloedel
Jonathan C. Schaefer	Lloyd D. Martin

Committee on Missions

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D. Elected</u>
Pastor Styx	Pastor Schaefer	Pastor Schaefer	Pastor Natterer
Pastor Natterer	Pastor Bloedel	Pastor Natterer	Pastor Schaefer
Loren Dirksen	Robert Bloedel	Robert Bloedel	Robert Bloedel
Stephen Bloedel	Ted. Fischer	Ted Fischer	Loren Dirksen
H. Daniel Mensing	H. Daniel Mensing	H. Daniel Mensing	Lloyd E. Martin

Committee on Lutheran Union

<u>A</u>	<u>B Elected</u>
Vice President (by Constitution)	(HDM)
Secretary (by Constitution)	(MLN)
Professor Schaefer	Professor Schaefer
David T. Mensing	Victor K. Bloedel

Publishing House Board of Control

<u>A Elected</u>	<u>B</u>
Pastor Bloedel	Pastor Bloedel
Pastor Natterer	Pastor Styx
Ronald Schlaht	Stephen Bloedel
Victor K. Bloedel	Victor K. Bloedel
Paul Luedtke	Dale Ellis

Finance Committee

<u>A Elected</u>	<u>B</u>
Treasurer (by Constitution)	(Jeffery Styx)
Loren Dirksen	Paul Luedtke
Dale Ellis	Larry Turner
Larry Turner	Lloyd E. Martin

It was then moved and seconded to consider all elections unanimous. The motion was carried unanimously.

As it was the scheduled time for the presentation of the report of the Committee on Missions and as a report for same had been received from Pastor Luedtke, the chairman of this committee for the past year, but as the convention had recognized that he was no longer in fellowship with the conference, there was some question as to what to do with the report submitted by him. It was moved and seconded that the second pastoral member of the committee for the past year look over the report submitted and revise it for presentation to the convention at a later time. The motion was carried.

In accordance with the suggestion of the Board made before receipt of the report on missions submitted by Pastor Luedtke, Pastor Schaefer then presented the proposed guidelines for the granting of building loans to mission congregations, which proposed guidelines had been drawn up by the Mission Committee during the past year. (See text of these guidelines on page 28a of these Proceedings.) After their presentation it was moved and seconded to adopt these guidelines. One point of discussion asked concerning the limiting of loans to mission congregations. It was answered that this had been the original intent and the whole thrust of the committee's work.

As the time for the supper hour had come before the matter of loan guidelines could be adequately discussed the matter was held in abeyance and the convention adjourned until Saturday morning.

Saturday Sessions

The Saturday sessions were opened with a devotion led by Pastor Bloedel. The devotion opened with Hymn 544, Pastor Bloedel read Psalm 92 and offered a prayer, and the devotion closed with the singing of Hymn 550.

Discussion of the matter of the proposed guidelines for building loans to mission congregations was resumed. It was moved and seconded to recommit the matter of guidelines for building loans to the Mission Committee and that it bring to next year's convention the results of its work in this regard. Carried.

The minutes of the Friday sessions were then presented in rough form. It was moved and seconded to accept them subject to their approval by the Praesidium in their final form. The motion was carried.

At this point in time the agenda called for the continuation of the presentation of the essay. As it was determined, however, that the balance of the essay could easily be presented in the time scheduled for the Sunday sessions, it was moved and seconded that we dispense with the presentation of the essay on Saturday and resume its presentation on Sunday afternoon for the benefit of the additional visitors who would be present. The motion was carried.

It was then moved and seconded, as statistics had then been received from all member congregations, that the presentation of conference statistics be scheduled on the Sunday agenda after the final report of the Committee on Registration and Excuses. The motion was carried.

The Report of the Committee on Theological Education was then given by Pastor Styx. (See page 22 of these Proceedings.) It was moved and seconded to receive the report and to discuss briefly each of the recommendations and possibilities with the view of then submitting them to the Resolutions Committee. The motion was carried.

As the recommendations and listed possibilities were in three basic groups, attention was focused first on the groups as opposed to the individual recommendations. The first group dealt with encouraging men among us to consider and Lord willing to enter the Holy Ministry among us. It was noted that our efforts in this regard should not be just a one time endeavor, but should be a part of an on-going, continual, year by year application and extension of our love of the Lord and His Word. It was moved and seconded to submit the first three recommendations of the Committee on Theological Education, dealing with encouraging men to enter the Ministry, to the Resolutions Committee. The motion was carried.

The second group of ideas presented by the committee were not recommendations, but a brief list of some possibilities for solving the financial crisis in the Seminary. After these and others were briefly discussed it was moved and seconded that the Resolutions Committee take the mentioned possibilities concerning financial aspects of the Seminary under advisement. The motion was carried.

It was asked if it might not help to hear the Report of the Seminary President before continuing to focus on the third group of thoughts (the second group of recommendations). It was determined, however, that proper order should proceed with consideration of the recommendations of the Committee on Theological Education.

This final group of recommendations were considered individually. Under the discussion of the first of these recommendations (regarding visits by Professor Schaefer to pastoral members of the FLC) it was noted that the purpose of this proposal was to have informal visits, which often prove more effective

in determining whether or not doctrinal unity truly exists. To a question concerning the costs we might expect for travel to visit these pastors, it was noted that all of them live within about 400 miles of Pastor Schaefer's home. To the question as to whether the thought was for long or short term visits (i.e. a few days vs. a few hours, etc.) it was answered that this would better be determined as each case presented itself. It was then moved and seconded to submit this recommendation to the Resolutions Committee. The motion was carried.

The second of this group of recommendations was then discussed. It was noted that also the Seminary's course on Propaedeutics had no real textbook, but merely a syllabus. It was requested that Professor Mensing also be included in this assignment for his talents in this regard. It was moved and seconded to commit this recommendation to the Resolutions Committee. Carried.

The third recommendation was briefly discussed (concerning entrance exams). The motion to commit this recommendation to the Resolutions Committee was carried.

The fourth recommendation was then discussed (concerning mission work in the far south-western suburbs of Chicago). It was noted that this would be a project of the conference, not the local congregation near-by. It was noted that our c.r.m. might also be used during the summer months (He was a teacher in the public school system at the time). It was moved and seconded to commit this recommendation to the Resolutions Committee. Carried.

After brief discussion it was moved and seconded to submit the fifth recommendation of this group (dealing with Professor Mensing as archivist) to the Resolutions Committee. The motion was carried.

In connection with the sixth and last of these recommendations, discussion centered on some of the practical and financial problems involved. It was moved and seconded neither to commit this recommendation to the Resolutions Committee nor to adopt or take any further action on this recommendation at this convention. The motion was carried.

The Chairman of the Committee on Theological Education asked the Resolutions Committee also to consider the paragraph of his committee's report which immediately followed the recommendations. This then concluded the consideration of the report.

The presentation of the Report of the Seminary President then followed. (See page 25 of these Proceedings.) It was moved and seconded to receive this report. Carried. It was moved and seconded that the Comparative Symbolics booklet mentioned in this report be submitted to all the pastors of the Conference for discussion in the next plenary pastoral conference. The motion was carried.

It was noted at this time that the Popular History of the Concordia Lutheran Conference was available in booklet form. There was a question from the Chairman of the Publishing House as to what figure should be charged for the booklet and to whom this should be payable. It was moved and seconded that the Popular History of the Concordia Lutheran Conference be made available to all our people at the cost of \$1.00 per copy plus postage and handling, payable to our publishing house. The motion was carried.

As it was time for the noon meal, the morning sessions then closed with the singing of Hymn 659.

Saturday afternoon sessions were opened with a devotion led by Pastor Styx. The assembly sang Hymn 264 and Pastor Styx read John 14:15-23 and offered a prayer.

The Report of the Editorial Committee was then presented by Pastor Schaefer. It was moved and seconded to receive this report and to commend the editorial staff and especially the editor for a fine product. The motion was carried.

The Report of the Publishing House Board of Control was given by Pastor Bloedel (See page 21 of these proceedings). The motion to receive this report was carried. There was some question concerning the printing of the Seminary Catalogue. Since there was not a need for a great volume of copies the advisability of expending time and money for hot type printing was questioned. But for the need to have some copies it was urged that some copies be produced. It was moved and seconded that the Seminary Catalogue be set up in cold type proofs and that 25 copies be printed by Xerox or other copy machine. The motion was carried.

The Report of the Business Manager of Scriptural Publications was then presented and the motion to receive was carried. (See page 40 of these Proceedings). Following a question concerning the outstanding debt indicated in this report it was moved and seconded that for the coming fiscal year we increase the Scriptural Publications allocation to \$600.00 in the proposed budget (i.e. an additional \$300.00 this year over the needed increase of \$300.00 requested for the regular figure). The motion was carried.

The report of the Auditing Committee was presented by committee member Ted Fitzwater. He reported concerning both the books of Scriptural Publications and those of the conference Treasurer. The motion to receive this report was carried. The Secretary read a letter from Peace Ev. Lutheran Church explaining why there had not been an audit of the Treasurer's book conducted locally (See 1979 Proceedings, p.43); namely, because the books had not been closed prior to the time when the Treasurer left for the convention (he had departed about a week early), and therefore the committee they had chosen locally had not been able to meet with the Treasurer for auditing the books. An explanation of the particular circumstances involved this year was given and received by the convention. It was understood, however, that unless it is changed by decision of the conference, the regular method of auditing the Treasurer's books continue to be by a committee of the congregation where the Treasurer is a member through the conference's convention committee.

The initial report of the Finance Committee concerning the budget was then presented by the Treasurer (chairman of this committee, See page 35 of these Proceedings). Before discussion of this report, however, the convention recessed for a break.

Following the break it was moved and seconded to receive this report. There was discussion concerning the text of the report; specifically, concerning the matter of telephone conversations, concerning contingency plans regarding St. Stephen's, and concerning the stated inability to transfer monies from one conference fund to another. There was extensive discussion on each of these points. A suggested rewording concerning the transfer of funds was suggested by the Secretary and incorporated by the Treasurer into the report. After further discussion concerning the other points it was moved and seconded to recommit the report to the committee for correction before final presentation and reception. The motion was lost. After some further discussion of the points it was moved and seconded to recommit the report to the committee for re-wording and for checking as to whether certain statements regarding the Seminary plan were accurate. This motion was carried.

Discussion of the budget proposals was then taken up. It was suggested (this "suggestion" was actually moved and seconded, but following some discussion was withdrawn by both the mover and the seconder. As this is not exactly according to Robert's Rules of order, but has been accepted among us I felt this was the wisest way of recording the minutes) that the convention briefly discuss each of the budget items and submit the matter to the Resolutions Committee to bring their recom-

mendations to the assembly before developing a proposal #3. A proposal #3 was then presented from the floor for the Seminary and Mission funds. This proposal involved transferring some of the interest income anticipated in the Mission Fund to the Seminary Fund so that both salaries could continue at current levels. This, it was mentioned, would avoid the hardship that would be caused by cutting a salary with no advance notice, by delaying any necessary realignment until the next year. This proposal was then moved and seconded. The specifics of this proposal are as follows:

Seminary Fund

Budgeted Expenditures:

Professor's Salary	\$ 7,272.00
Housing Allowance	4,096.00
Associate Professor's Salary	2,388.00
Facilities	00
Library	00
Stock	00
Periodicals	75.00
Miscellaneous	00
Seminary Loan Payments	<u>00</u>
Total	\$13,831.00

Receipts Anticipated:

Pledged from congregations	\$12,984.00
From Mission Fund	<u>850.00</u>
	\$13,834.00

Net change: plus \$ 3.00
 Projected year-end balance: \$ 57.67 (not counting debt of existing loan from General Fund)

Mission Fund

Budgeted Expenditures:

Trinity Subsidy	\$ 5,184.00
Transfer to Seminary Fund	<u>850.00</u>
Total	\$ 6,034.00

Anticipated Receipts:

Pledged from congregations	\$ 3,900.00
Interest	<u>2,434.00</u>
	\$ 6,334.00

Net change: plus \$ 300.00
 Projected year-end balance: \$ 33,809.70

Discussion of this proposal began, but as it was the supper hour it was moved and seconded to table the motion to an evening session after supper to begin at 7:00pm.. The motion was lost.

It was then moved and seconded to amend the motion to adopt this proposal #3 to include that the whole financial and student situation in the Seminary be carefully reassessed at mid fiscal year so that if conditions are the same as at present or worse study and recommendations concerning professorial positions and the seminary plan could be laid before the congregations prior to the next convention so that a well thought out decision could be made at that time and all involved would have sufficient advance notice. This amendment was carried. With Proposal #3 so amended Proposal #3 was also carried.

The convention then adjourned for the evening meal at 5:40p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Randall D. Styx
Secretary

Sunday Sessions:

(Pastor Natterer assumed his elected position as Secretary at this time).

June 27, 1982

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

The opening devotion was conducted by Rev. O.W.Schaefer at 1:30 p.m. Hymn 33 was sung - Psalm 116 was read - Prayer was offered to the Throne of Grace.

Our newly-elected President, Rev.P.R.Bloedel, began the afternoon sessions by assuring the convention that he would seek to carry out his responsibilities to the best of his ability under the Lord.

The minutes of the previous day's sessions were read and adopted subject to review by the Praesidium.

Professor Schaefer then continued the presentation of his essay: "Faithfulness on the Part of Pastors and Members." This second part of his essay emphasized the importance of faithfulness on the part of the members of Christian congregations. The delegates took a very active part in discussing this second part of his essay. The essay was adopted with sincere thanks to the essayist for his faithful labors.

Mr.Jeffery Styx continued the report of the Finance Committee. A motion was made and seconded to hear the revised report of the Finance Committee. Carried. It was decided by the convention to change the word "lay off" to "sabbatical without pay."

Rev.O.W.Schaefer, the second pastoral member of the Mission Committee gave the report of this committee. It was moved and seconded to receive this report. Carried. In connection with this report the convention heard an informative oral report from Trinity Lutheran Church, Coos Bay, Oregon, through its pastor, Rev. R.Styx. This congregation, which is being subsidized by our Conference, continues its work in holding forth the Word of Life. The motion made to accept this report was seconded and carried.

The convention then heard the report from the Committee on Lutheran Union presented by Pastor H.David Mensing. It was moved and seconded to receive this report. Carried.

A motion was made and seconded to receive the final report of the Committee on Registration & Excuses as given by Mr. John Dirksen, a member of that committee. Carried.

Mr.David T. Mensing, the Conference Statistician, gave the Statistical Report of our Concordia Lutheran Conference. Motion made and seconded to receive this report. Carried.

Rev.H.David Mensing, in behalf of his congregation, Peace Ev. Lutheran Church, extended an invitation to host the 1983 convention of our Conference at Tinley Park, Illinois. This invitation was accepted with thanks.

It was moved and seconded to have the reading of the minutes from the afternoon session committed to the Praesidium for review. Carried.

The Convention was formally adjourned at 5:15 p.m. with the singing of hymn 53, the reading of Psalm 111, the confession of our Christian faith (Apostles' Creed), the praying of the Lord's Prayer, and the Blessing by President Bloedel.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev.M.L.Natterer, Secretary

RECOMMENDATION 1 from the Board of Directors

WHEREAS the Rev. James W. Luedtke has returned to his earlier false position in the doctrine of the Church and Ministry in a lengthy paper which he himself describes as his final, settled position and which renounces our confessional position set forth in our theses, This Scriptural Position We Still Hold, ratified by all our congregations in 1968; and

WHEREAS he has dealt deceitfully with the Conference by giving the appearance that he was still in the unity of the Spirit with us while for six months he was preparing his paper in complete opposition to our public confession; and

WHEREAS he has rejected a critique on that paper, requested by him and his congregation and prepared by the pastors of the Conference according to sound Scriptural principles; and

WHEREAS he was given the opportunity to attend the present Pastoral Conference, once again to be admonished for his false position and for his deception, but has declined to come and hear us;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we recognize regretfully that Pastor Luedtke has persistently violated the conditions of membership and fellowship set forth in Article IV of the Conference Constitution, specifically in that he no longer holds to our confessional standard in the Word of God, and therefore that he has forfeited his Christian fellowship with our Conference. (Compare Article VII)

- WHEREAS Pastor Luedtke has broken his fellowship with us by persistently adhering to a false position in the doctrine of the Church and Ministry and has thus renounced his agreement with our confessional standard, thereby forfeiting his Christian fellowship with our Conference; and
- WHEREAS he had a few years ago basically made known his position to his flock, St. Stephen's Congregation in Wilmot, and has been permitted by the congregation to continue to do so privately, but has withheld from them the details of his paper, as well as the critique by which we endeavored to correct him; and
- WHEREAS these brethren now find themselves with a pastor who is no longer in fellowship either with our Conference or with his own congregation, inasmuch as they still subscribe to our confessional position on the basis of Scripture; and
- WHEREAS we recognize the sincere desire, expressed by our brethren in Wilmot, for a "God-pleasing conclusion to the present difficulties surrounding the church and ministry question";
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we again offer to send Pastors Mensing and Bloedel as a special delegation, upon written invitation of the congregation, not to dialog or debate with their pastor, but to discuss these matters with them as our brethren and to refresh their minds as to the truly Scriptural position in these doctrines as we all confessed it together down through the years since the days of the Missouri Synod's orthodoxy;
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, out of concern for their souls and for the souls of their children after them, we as their dear brethren urge them yet again to inform their pastor that they are still in the unity of the Spirit with us, and that, if their pastor continues to hold to his false position, they should appeal to his honesty and integrity in view of his oath to teach nothing contrary to the congregation's professed position, and ask him to resign; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we earnestly warn our dear brethren in Wilmot against a long and dangerous delay in this matter which, according to Scripture, will work like leaven in their midst. (Galatians 5:9; II Timothy 2:16-17; Matthew 7:15)

(Suggest sending this resolution in a brotherly letter to the congregation, through its pastor, but with a special cover letter to Pastor Luedtke, appealing to his sense of honesty and fairness in submitting it to the congregation and not withholding it from them.)

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 31st ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE
CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CONFERENCE

Resolution #1:

WHEREAS it is stated in the June 20th letter of St. Stephen's Ev. Lutheran Church to President Natterer that the President's letter of June 7th played an important part in their overall decision not to send pastoral and lay delegates to this convention; and

WHEREAS the President insisted in that letter that the delegates of St. Stephen's Congregation "write on their credentials with their signatures that they and the congregation they represent still share our confessional position on the Doctrine of the Church and the Ministry in order that they may be seated at the convention (I Cor. 1:10);" and

WHEREAS the President of our Conference, who is charged with guarding our confessional position, deemed such an affirmation necessary because "Pastor Luedtke's confession on the Doctrine of the Church & Ministry is plainly no longer that of our Conference," and because "it is evident from the correspondence that he made known to his congregation, at least the basic substance of his false position;"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED to receive the letter from St. Stephen's Congregation, Willnot, South Dakota, as an explanation of the absence of pastoral and lay delegates from this convention, but not as a proper excuse, inasmuch as it sets itself against a forthright confession of their faith with us, in spite of the fact that they recognize their official subscription of our Conference position; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we show by this action a true spirit of brotherliness which rejoices in the truth and earnestly desires to point brethren to the proper application of God's Word in their life and conduct, that the unity of the Spirit may be preserved among us in a truly God-pleasing manner.

Resolution #2:

WHEREAS the Rev. James W. Luedtke has returned to his earlier false position in the doctrine of the Church and Ministry in a lengthy paper which he himself describes as his final, settled position and which renounces our confessional position set forth in our theses, This Scriptural Position We Still Hold, ratified by all our congregations in 1968; and

WHEREAS he has dealt deceitfully with the Conference by giving the appearance that he was still in the unity of the Spirit with us while for six months he was preparing his paper in complete opposition to our public confession; and

WHEREAS he has rejected a critique on that paper, requested by him and his congregation and prepared by the pastors of the Conference according to sound Scriptural principles; and

WHEREAS he was given the opportunity to attend the present Pastoral Conference, once again to be admonished for his false position and for his deception, but has declined to come and hear us;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we recognize regretfully that Pastor Luedtke has persistently violated the conditions of membership and fellowship set forth in Article IV of the Conference Constitution, specifically in that he no longer holds to our confessional standard in the Word of God, and therefore that he has forfeited his Christian fellowship with our Conference.
(Compare Article VII.)

Resolution #3:

WHEREAS Pastor Luedtke has broken his fellowship with us by persistently adhering to a false position in the doctrine of the Church and Ministry and has thus renounced his agreement with our confessional standard, thereby forfeiting his Christian fellowship with our Conference; and

WHEREAS he had a few years ago basically made known his position to his flock, St. Stephen's Congregation in Wilmot, and has been permitted by the congregation to continue to do so privately, but has withheld from them the details of his paper, as well as the critique by which we endeavored to correct him; and

WHEREAS these brethren now find themselves with a pastor who is no longer in fellowship either with our Conference or with his own congregation, inasmuch as they still subscribe to our confessional position on the basis of Scripture; and

WHEREAS we recognize the sincere desire, expressed by our brethren in Wilmot, for a "God-pleasing conclusion to the present difficulties surrounding the church and ministry question;"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we again offer to send Pastors Mensing and Bloedel as a special delegation, upon written invitation of the congregation, not to dialog or debate with their pastor, but to discuss these matters with them as our brethren and to refresh their minds as to the truly Scriptural position in these doctrines as we all confessed it together down through the years since the days of the Missouri Synod's orthodoxy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, out of concern for their souls and for the souls of their children after them, we as their dear brethren urge them yet again to inform their pastor that they are still in the unity of the Spirit with us, and that, if their pastor continues to hold to his false position, they should appeal to his honesty and integrity in view of his oath to teach nothing contrary to the congregation's professed position, and ask him to resign; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we earnestly warn our dear brethren in Wilmot against a long and dangerous delay in this matter which, according to Scripture, will work like leaven in their midst. (Galatians 5:9; II Timothy 2:16-17; Matthew 7:15)

Resolution #4:

WHEREAS the necessity of maintaining our seminary as currently structured is still recognized by our Conference as an item of high priority, including our particularly well-qualified and gifted faculty, our theological curriculum as developed and refined over the years, and our seminary's recognition by the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, with the prospect of no student whatever for the coming academic year, our Conference finds itself faced with the difficult prospect of maintaining our faculty on salary with no regular duties in lieu of classroom instruction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, upon recommendation of the Committee on Theological Education, we continue our seminary faculty on a working sabbatical for the coming academic year, assigning them the following projects in lieu of classroom duties:

- 1) Authorize Professor Schaefer during the next several months to visit individually, at Conference General Fund expense for travel, the pastoral members of the Fellowship of Lutheran Congregations for personal unofficial interviews regarding their doctrinal and confessional positions, and to convey the results of these interviews to the chairman of the Committee on Lutheran Union with the view toward subsequent fruitful negotiations with this group as soon as it expresses the willingness to meet with our union committee;
- 2) Assign to Professor Schaefer, in consultation with Associate Professor Mensing, the preparation of entrance examinations for prospective students who have studied privately or taken pre-seminary coursework but have no college transcripts to present;
- 3) Delegate to Professor Schaefer the task of conducting missionary activity in the Lockport-New Lenox-Romeoville-Homer Township region of the south-western Chicago suburbs to explore and to assess the possibility of establishing a mission station or small congregation in that area;
- 4) Authorize Associate Professor Mensing to continue the maintenance of historical archives for the Conference and to devise a system whereby these materials can be made available in copy form to others upon request, particularly those documents which are not currently available from other sources. Necessary funds for the implementation of this assignment are to be defrayed out of the Conference General Fund;
- 5) Request Professor Schaefer to prepare, in consultation with Associate Professor Mensing, textbooks for the following courses in our seminary curriculum for which no adequate text is currently available:
 - a) Propadeutics
 - b) Liturgics
 - c) Catechetics; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Professor and Associate Professor file quarterly, written reports with the president of the Conference and the chairman of the Committee on Theological Education, summarizing their activities and their progress in these assignments.

Resolution #5:

WHEREAS the continuing lack of students in our seminary is of great concern to our Conference, particularly as we look to the future and recognize the evident need for well-trained, faithful pastors for ourselves and our children; and

WHEREAS the Committee on Theological Education in its report to this convention suggested various ways in which our people may be regularly reminded of this need and urged to remember our seminary in their prayers, to continue their generous support of its work, and to encourage young men to prepare for the Holy Ministry in our midst;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that our congregations consider including in the General Prayer at divine services special mention of our beloved seminary and petition the Lord of the Church graciously to preserve His ministry among us by moving the hearts of our young men to desire this holy office and to prepare for this sacred vocation as undershepherds of Christ Jesus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our congregations and pastors be encouraged to include this topic in Bible Class discussions, young people's gatherings and at other opportune times; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as an adjunct to this local effort, the Editorial Committee solicit from each of our Conference pastors an article on this subject to appear during the coming year in our official periodical.

Resolutions of Thanks

Resolution #6:

WHEREAS the sermon delivered by our President at the opening service of this convention, as well as that delivered in the Sunday Divine Service by Pastor H. David Mensing, were particularly edifying to the delegates, guests and visitors present; and

WHEREAS the delegates and visitors at this convention received also special encouragement and strength from the precious Word of God in the various devotions conducted by our pastors during the sessions; and

WHEREAS we were particularly edified by the special essay presented at this convention regarding faithfulness to the Lord and His Word on the part of both pastors and their members;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the convention express its thanks to Pastors Natterer and Mensing for their edifying sermons, to Professor Schaefer for his timely and thorough essay, and to all the Conference pastors for the devotions they conducted during this convention.

Resolution #7:

WHEREAS our Concordia Theological Seminary has continued to enjoy the use of the physical facilities of Peace Ev. Lutheran Church in Tinley Park, Illinois, during the past fiscal year; and

WHEREAS Peace Congregation has continued to provide these facilities for a token maintenance cost and, in the coming year, is offering them cost-free to the Conference to help alleviate, even in a small way, the expenditures for its seminary program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we express our gratitude to the Lord for the continued brotherly cooperation, generosity and sacrifice of Peace Congregation in its promotion of this very necessary work among us.

Resolution #8:

WHEREAS the officers, standing committees, and appointed committees have served our beloved Conference faithfully during the past fiscal year under the Lord's continued blessings;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we express our gratitude for all that these brethren have wrought in their dedicated Christian service to our Conference during the past year of grace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the Holy Spirit to endow those brethren who have been chosen for positions of leadership in our midst with a rich measure of His grace in the new year upon us, so that all they think, say and do may be in accordance with God's Holy Word, to His glory alone, and for the welfare and continued prosperity of His kingdom among us.

Resolution #9:

WHEREAS St. John's Lutheran Church of Lebanon, Oregon, has shown itself to be a most gracious host to the 31st Annual Convention of our beloved Conference by extending to delegates and guests loving Christian hospitality in its church building and in the homes of its members; and

WHEREAS the devotions and divine services conducted during this convention were beautified by special organ music to the praise of our Lord and Savior, the Head of His church; and

WHEREAS we were privileged to enjoy not only nourishment for our bodies through the dedicated service of the ladies of the congregation, but received also in rich abundance nourishment for our souls in the Bread of Life, God's precious Word, and in the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood as guests of this Christian congregation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Concordia Lutheran Conference express its heartfelt gratitude to the pastor and members of this congregation for their liberal hospitality and their Christian fellowship and love which contributed to the general success of this convention, to our spiritual edification and to our physical comfort; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference especially thank Mr. Stephen Bloedel for serving as organist for this convention, and that we express our gratitude also to Miss Nora Natterer for her generous personal contribution, as well as for making the necessary arrangements for the recreational activity enjoyed by convention guests on Friday evening; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, above all others, we praise and magnify the Lord of the Church, our gracious Savior, for the bountiful blessings He has continued to bestow upon our Conference by His never-failing grace, particularly that by His Holy Spirit He has graciously preserved us in true unity of faith and confession in His Holy Word, in spite of the ceaseless onslaughts of Satan and the defection of a false brother in the ministry. We beseech our gracious Savior, without whom we can do nothing, now to strengthen us in the year ahead, that in keeping with our convention motto we remain faithful to Him and to His Word even unto the end, to the praise of His abiding grace alone

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