

2018 National Via de Cristo Annual Gathering Business Meeting

Palm Beach Atlantic University

July 26-29, 2018

President Wendy Showalter at 4:01 pm EDT on Thursday, July 26, 2018, called the meeting to order.

Pastor Mark Marxhausen opened in prayer.

Magdala Ray led us in the Prayer of Holy Spirit song.

Wendy introduced the National Lutheran Secretariat Executive Board members: Treasurer Brenda Accola; VP of Outreach Ellick Morey; VP of Administration Warren Butch Seeley; Spiritual Director Mark Marxhausen; Secretary Debbie Klatt; Database Coordinator Dave Lambert; Webmaster Rick Hanzlik; and Newsletter Editor Carol Reedstrom.

Debbie officially seated the Lay Delegates and a quorum was declared.

Wendy recognized two individuals for their long service to NLS - Diane Purcell; the previous Financial Advisor was presented with a gift of appreciation. John Bradford, our Distribution Center Coordinator, was not present.

The delegates reviewed the Agenda and a motion to approve was made Raleigh Sandy of Via de Cristo of Ohio and second by Dave Rankin from Gold Coast Via de Cristo. Motion passed.

The body was informed by Wendy that this business meeting was being recorded.

Old Business:

Wendy reminded the delegates of a motion presented by the Executive Committee during the 2017 Annual Gathering last July. The motion made was to change the way secretariat delegates are calculated for the Annual Gathering business meetings. At that time, the body approved a motion to postpone action until the 2018 Annual Gathering. In the ensuing months, the Executive Committee decided to withdraw that motion. Today, the Executive Committee made a motion to withdraw the original motion, seconded by Journey in Faith Via de Cristo, Steve Barnet. Motion passed.

Wendy provided an explanation of the election process and noted the Board positions that were open for nominations from the floor. Nomination forms are in the binders and are also available near the podium. She asked for all to prayerfully consider being nominated for the positions of Spiritual Director, VP of Administration and Treasurer.

The Five-Year Plan for the National Lutheran Secretariat Executive Board was introduced.

1. Create, Maintain and Yearly Review Executive Board Position Manuals, Calendar and Personal Goals
2. Totally Re-design and Populate the NLS Website.
3. Develop a Strategy to Identify the Challenges and How to Strengthen the Secretariats and Their Governing Bodies.

4. Review and Update All Rollo Outlines.
5. Establish a pastoral growth plan strategy.
6. Establish a Technology Ad Hoc committee.
7. Establish a Communications Committee.
8. Discuss the Challenges/Advantages of Changing the Name of National Lutheran Secretariat..

Our website will post the NLS Five-Year Plan. A workshop will be available this weekend on how a secretariat can start a five-year plan by John Aclin.

Butch gave announcements for the rest of the day.

Pastor Mark closed us in prayer.

Motion by Via de Cristo of Ohio Raleigh Sandy to recess, and Notes of Grace of Middle Tennessee Via de Cristo Steve Manasco seconded. Motion passed.

Recessed at 4:43 pm EST.

Friday: July 27, 2018 Morning Session

The meeting was called to order and resumed at 9:38 am EDT.

Pastor Dave Rankin opened us with prayer.

Magdala led us in the Prayer of the Holy Spirit song.

Wendy recognized John Bradford, who was unavailable during yesterday's portion of the business meeting, for his many years of service with a gift. Paul Schmidlin was recognized as well for his service even though he was not present.

Wendy asked three times for nominations from the floor for Treasurer. Raleigh Sandy from Via de Cristo of Ohio asked that the nominations for treasurer be closed. Dave Rankin from Gold Coast Via de Cristo seconded. Motion passed.

Wendy asked three times for floor nominations for Vice President of Administration. Motion by Sue Bathe from Gulf Coast Via de Cristo to close nominations for VPA was made and seconded by Beverly Kovach from Sonshine Via de Cristo of South Florida. Motion passed.

Wendy asked three times for nominations from the floor for Spiritual Director. Steve Barnett from Journey in Faith Via de Cristo made a motion to close nominations for Spiritual Director. Ginny Buck from Northern Plains of North Dakota Via de Cristo seconded. Motion passed.

Diane Purcell asked since Debbie Klatt was the only candidate/nominee running, should the motion to close floor nominations be instead Election by Acclamation and not be on the ballot? Wendy explained that since the motion was made and passed to close nominations, it is understood that she is elected.

Brenda presented the Treasurer's report. The written report is in the binder. She discussed the Statement of activity. The report was thoroughly covered and explained. The comparative report was presented and explained.

Each member of the National Lutheran Secretariat Board (both elected and appointed positions) presented a brief overview of the activities of the past year. During Pastor Mark's overview, he invited anyone who was interested in joining a weekend team in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, to contact him. This event will occur in July of 2019. He hopes to start a Via de Cristo community in Argentina.

Because of time constraints, Pastor Percy Smerek joined us via video teleconference to introduce himself and explain why he was running for Spiritual Director; it was impossible for him to attend in person due to a prior commitment. The other nominees will speak to the delegates later today.

The workshops for today were described.

Magdala gave announcements.

A motion was made to recess by Raleigh Sandy from Via de Cristo of Ohio and seconded by Scott Erickson from Lutheran Via de Cristo of Minnesota. Motion passed.

Mark closed in prayer.

Recessed.

Friday 27, 2018 Afternoon Session

The meeting was called to order and resumed at 2:43 pm. EDT.

Mark led us in prayer.

Magdala led us in the Prayer of the Holy Spirit song.

Wendy introduced the nominees for election to the Executive Committee. Each candidate was given the floor to introduce himself or herself. Jim Ryan for Treasurer, Debbie Klatt for Vice President of Administration, Pastor Sue Beall and Pastor Bob Allman for Spiritual Director. Earlier we met via video teleconference Pastor Percy.

Ballots were distributed to the Lay Delegates and collected. Pastor Mark led the team to tabulate the votes.

Brenda explained the proposed budget. She explained that dues are based on the number of weekends and the number pilgrims that attended a weekend the previous calendar year. NLS runs on a fiscal year of June 1st through May 31st. All dues are to be paid by May 31st. The proposed budget was explained with last year's budget, this year's actuals and the new proposed budget. Raleigh Sandy with Via de Cristo of Ohio made a motion to modify the budget for the Directors Insurance and increase it from \$500 to \$900. C Karl Gaston from Via de Cristo of Ohio seconded. Motion passed. A motion to approve the budget as amended was made by Raleigh Sandy from Via de Cristo of Ohio. Seconded by Bernie Hess from Eastern North Carolina Via de Cristo. Motion passed.

Election results: Jim Ryan - Treasurer, Debbie Klatt - VPA and Pastor Bob Allman - SD.

Motion was made by Steve Barnet from Journey in Faith Via de Cristo to destroy the ballots, seconded by Steve Manasco from Notes of Grace of Middle Tennessee Via de Cristo. Motion passed.

Now that the position of secretary will be vacant at the end of the day tomorrow, the Executive Committee will appoint a replacement during the next NLS Executive Committee meeting in August. Wendy asked that everyone pray about the position and consider filling out a nomination form if interested in the 12-month appointment.

Magdala gave announcements.

Butch reminded everyone to complete the evaluation forms.

Dave Lambert made an announcement about the letter from the Bishop of Michigan.

A motion to recess was made by Rose Briggs from Living Stones Via de Cristo and seconded by Jeanne Gaston from Via de Cristo of Ohio. Motion passed.

Prayer led by Mark.

Saturday July 28, 2018

The meeting was called to order and resumed at 9:39 am EDT.

Wendy reminded everyone to consider the position of secretary. She also shared that several items from this Annual Gathering will be posted on the website.

The Regional Coordinators gave reports on activities in their regions.

Region 1 – Kim Brownlow, Region 2 – Ginny Buck, Region 3 – Cindy Perkins, Region 4 – Pam Gross, Region 5 – John Aclin and Rose Briggs, Region 6 – Chris Rasmussen and Region 7 – Tom and Cindy Kirk.

2019 Host Committee – INKY Via de Cristo presented an invitation to the 2019 NLS Annual Gathering in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Wendy described the afternoon workshops.

Diane Purcell asked how many of the ratifications letters were received. Wendy shared that we have received 42 signed ratification letters out of 45.

New Business:

Raleigh Sandy with Via de Cristo of Ohio made a motion on behalf of the delegates a sincere appreciation to the Host Team for their hospitality, to the NLS Executive Board for their laboring tasks

in leadership, to our speakers and workshop leaders for their presentations and information so well presented and to this body for doing the work of our Lord. Please allow the second to this motion be from our Father, who provided His presence with His Son and Spirit. We will affirm this by acclamation with the Prayer of our Lord. Seconded by God and Lori Hudson of Lutheran Via de Cristo of Minnesota. Motion passed.

Magdala gave announcements.

Butch reminded everyone again about the evaluation forms.

Motion to adjourn by Jim Ryan from Sonbeam Via de Cristo, seconded by Steve Manasco from Notes of Grace of Middle Tennessee Via de Cristo. Motion passed.

Mark closed us in Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 10:29 am EDT.

Debbie Klatt
NLS Secretary