

Central States Synod Women of the ELCA

33rd Annual Convention

September 10-11, 2021, Held virtually via Zoom

Convention Theme: My Story, Your Story, Our Story

Convention Hymn: Blessed Assurance (ELW #638)

Convention Scripture: Psalm 51:15 “Oh Lord, open my lips and my mouth will declare your praise.”

Friday, September 10, 2021

Participants signed on with a Zoom meeting link sent by convention registrar, Anna Prockish, and Central States Synod communication manager, Tim Anderson. One hundred people pre-registered for the convention, attending alone or in groups to Zoom sessions.

Participants enjoyed pre-convention musical prelude by Vicki Hedger.

Convention Opening

President Alice Burnett welcomed attendees and introduced special guests Elizabeth Burgess, our Churchwide representative visiting virtually from Augusta, Maine, Bishop Susan Candea, Pr. Ann Lundquist from the Gathering Table, Pr. Kim Frederking keynote speaker, Pr. Dinah Dutta, Bible study leader, and Patti Winkler, presenter.

Alice announced that all individual offerings and in-kind monetary donations can be made via the Zoom link or mailed to Vickie Donnell, treasurer. Additionally, the Love offering will be divided 50% churchwide, 25% Gathering Table and 25% Restoration House of Greater Kansas City. Please consider donating the amount of traditional registration, food or lodging expenses.

Elizabeth Burgess, Churchwide Board Member of the Women of the ELCA,

Greeting and Report Liz praised the Central States synod board for forging ahead with a virtual convention. She referred attendees to the Women of the ELCA website to read about the outcomes from the Eleventh Triennial Convention held Aug. 3-5 via Zoom. The voting members reduced the size of the churchwide board from 21 to 15 members while making it more inclusive. The newly elected officers will serve until the next convention in Phoenix, Arizona in August 2023. They are Joy Michalicek- president; Freddie Jordan-vice president; Angela Bell-secretary; and Raeann Purcell-treasurer. She invited participants to visit the website for the CWO Executive Board members for 2021-2023. Please continue to give generously to the churchwide organization. Liz experienced technical difficulties with connectivity to the internet.

Bishop Susan Candea, Welcome and Report of the Central States Synod Bishop Candea brought greetings from the Synod and thanked us for our faithfulness and resiliency in organizing a virtual convention. She encouraged all women to visit the CSS website to read the

new mission statement and several new initiatives of the Central States Synod including a leadership development program, faithful innovations, and an Earth charter. Bishop Candea emphasized the importance of boldly moving forward. She took questions from the floor.

Opening Worship with sermon shared by Bishop Candea.

Saturday, September 11, 2021

Bible Study led by Pr. Dinah Dutta based on Psalm 51

Vendor videos: _Restoration House of Kansas City, Indian Mission, LWR, Bethany Home

Pr. Ann Rundquist, The Gathering Table featured presentation video

Virtual Workshop- “Quilts in the Classroom” recorded presentation by Patti Winkler

Keynote Address- “Our Blessed Stories” by the Rev. Kim Frederking

We closed this portion of the convention with a final song and prayer.

11:30 BUSINESS SESSION for Voting Members via different Zoom link

President Alice Burnette called the 33rd Annual Convention to order.

APPOINTMENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN: The chair appointed Rhonda Templing, PMA

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: On behalf of the synodical board, Kathy Steinke moved the adoption of the agenda with flexibility allowing the chair to reorder items as necessary. The motion was seconded and carried.

CONVENTION PROGRAM AND REPORTS: There were no changes in the Program Book.

CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE: Total registration is as follows: 25 voting members, 69 participants, 6 guests, 6 officers/board, for a total registration of 106. With 25 voting members and 6 officers and board members, we have a voting strength of 31.

Alice Burnett, for registrar Anna Prockish, moved the adoption of the credentials report subject to revision. Motion seconded and carried.

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Carolyn Olson reported that there was one (1) nominee for the position of Vice president, Beth Rockelman, and one (1) nominee for the position of Secretary, Kathy Steinke and two (2) nominees for general board members, Loretta Homes and Jill Duis. Nominations were opened from the floor. There being none, the nominations were closed.

Carol entertained a question raised as to why the ballot said “2020”. She explained that this election is from the postponement of the convention in 2020.

Voting members voted virtually using the polling feature of Zoom. The full slate was elected unanimously. The chair declared these positions as one-year terms due to the postponement of the 2020 election.

Carolyn reported that there is one (1) nominee for each of the 2-year positions of President, Vickie Donnell, and Treasurer, Janice Gerken and three (3) nominees for three general board members, Pat Dunavan, Rev. Dinah Dutta and Kathy Regehr. Nominations for each position were opened from the floor. There being none, the nominations were closed.

Voting members voted virtually using the polling feature of Zoom. The full slate was elected unanimously. The chair declared these positions as two-year terms.

COMMITTEE ON PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Vice President Beth Rockelman called on Alice Burnett for her report. Alice reported that eight women were elected to attend Eleventh Triennial Convention on August 3-5 and that Sharon Hoffman and Carol Bunge served as alternates.

Due to illness Anna Crotinger was unable to fulfill her duties as secretary. Kara Jecha and Kathy Steinke have filled in for her.

The Board extends special thanks to Tim Anderson for his faithful help and expertise with technology creating this virtual convention. Thank you to Vicki Hedger for arranging music and worship for this convention and Connie Ross for programming. We remember Paula Simonich, who passed away this past year. Beth made a motion to accept the President's Report. Motion seconded and passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Vickie Donnell, Treasurer, circulated the Financial Reports in the Registration Packet. Also included were the 2021 summary and the 2023 proposed budget. With no questions, Vickie made a motion to adopt the proposed budget. Vote with via survey. Budget approved unanimously.

REFERENCE AND COUNCIL COMMITTEE: Dawn Lessiack and Sheri Storer presented one (1) Resolution for consideration.

RESOLUTION #1 Submitted by the CSS WELCA Board

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2021 convention of the Central States Synod Women of the ELCA was held virtually over the Internet with great effort and optimism: and

WHEREAS: all our special guests and leaders including Elizabeth Burgess, Bishop Susan Candea, Rev. Kim Frederking, Rev. Ann Rundquist, Patti Winkler, and Vicki Hedger have inspired us with their stories and gifts; and

WHEREAS: Tim Anderson of the Central States Synod staff has been essential in sharing his technology expertise and other volunteers have donated their time to help with tasks related to technology; and

WHEREAS: the members of the convention planning committee, who planned this gathering several times have showed perseverance and faith; and

RESOLVED: we show our thanks and appreciation to all these people with applause and smiles across the synod.

Motion was made to adopt the resolution. Seconded and adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Congratulations to the new officers and board members.

Kara Jecha shared that the lilac Convention t-shirts ordered for the postponed 2020 convention due to COVID 19 were donated our sister synod, North Carolina, to be used for the Living Word clothing closet to benefit struggling families.

Evaluations will be coming via email. Feedback is critical for planning future conventions.

Our business session was declared closed.

Liz Burgess installed the new officers and board members.

President- Vickie Donnell, 2-year term

Vice President- Beth Rockelman, 1 year term

Secretary- Kathy Steinke, 1 year term

Treasurer- Janice Gerkin, 2-year term

Board member- Jill Duis, 1 year term

Board member- Pat Dunavan, 2-year term

Board member- Rev. Dinah Dutta, 2-year term

Board member- Loretta Holmes, 1 year term

Board member- Kathy Regehr, 2-year term