



Minutes of the Fourth Annual Meeting WLS Alumni

*Monday, September 20, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Conducted in the Chapel of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary*

Opening

Chairman Daniel Balge opened the meeting with a short devotion based on 1 Timothy 4:9-16. After a prayer, the alumni sang "God of the Prophets," CW 543.

Greetings from the Seminary

WLS President Paul Wendland welcomed the alumni and thanked them for their continuing interest in and support of the Seminary. He especially expressed his appreciation for the many prayers offered on behalf of the Seminary family. He reported that 29 students were enrolled in the junior class, bringing the total enrollment to 143. President Wendland thanked the alumni for representing the Seminary with the people of our synod.

The Minutes of September 21, 2009, were adopted as presented.

Elections

The alumni were then invited to cast their ballots to elect new WLS Alumni officers and committee members. The election results are as follows:

- Vice-President: Timothy Dolan
- Secretary: Carl Ziemer
- Auditing Committee: Benjamin Kuerth
- Nominating Committee: Paul Schultz
- Membership Committee: John Brenner
- Investments and Grants Committee: Kenneth Fischer

On behalf of the WLS Alumni, President Balge thanked those men who had completed their terms on WLS Committees.

Departed to Glory

Professor John Brenner (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary) read the roll of those alumni who departed to glory since the 2009 annual meeting. The name of Pastor Cleone Weigand (class of 1960; died 9/16/2010) will be added to the 2009-2010 Chronicler's report. The Alumni then joined to sing "For All the Saints" (CW551, vv. 1-3).



President's Report

President Balge expressed gratitude to the WLS Mission Advancement Office for its continuing financial support. He mentioned that the WLS Alumni Executive Committee continues its efforts to achieve financial independence. Because of an encouraging response to the two annual appeals, WLS Alumni will award its first scholarship at this meeting. In keeping with plans to make continuing education an ongoing project, the Executive Committee will look for ways to be helpful to “Grow in Grace,” the Seminary’s new institute for continuing education. President Balge also reported that the 150th Anniversary Book Committee continues its work on a history of the Seminary. He concluded his report by thanking those who have faithfully completed their terms as WLS Alumni standing committee members and/or officers.

Financial Matters

Auditing Committee

Pastor Christopher Doerr reported that the Auditing Committee had reviewed the 2009-2010 financial records and had found them to be in good order. A motion was made and approved to accept the report.

Treasurer's Report

Aaron Christie presented a printed treasurer’s report and highlighted various details. Although WLS Alumni continues to receive some subsidy from the WLS Mission Advancement Office, Aaron noted that income had exceeded expenses for the first time. A motion was made and approved to accept the report.

First WLS Alumni Scholarship Award

WLS Alumni President Daniel Balge presented Gregory Hein, Mandan, ND, with a scholarship award of \$1,000. Gregory thanked WLS Alumni for the award. He said that while there are many pressures from the “outside world” to set earthly priorities, “at the seminary the priorities are God’s word and kingdom.” He added, “It’s an incredible privilege to learn how to serve God and his people. I truly appreciate it.”

Seminary Update – What's Happening on the Hill?

Professor Richard Gurgel spoke about the seminary’s new continuing education program, “Grow in Grace.” He encouraged all pastors to take advantage of the learning opportunities that will soon be available. He also urged congregations to make it possible for their pastors to regularly participate.



Report on 150th Anniversary Book – Dr. Joel Pless

Work continues on a 150 anniversary book for WLS. About half of the needed authors have been secured. Serious research on the history of the WI Lutheran Seminary continues (in the archives of Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis, MO, and elsewhere). Northwestern Publishing House is a potential publisher of the book, but has not committed to do the work.

The St. Louis Years 1870-78 – Dr. Joel Pless

Dr. Pless gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting various people and places during 1870-1878, the years when Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary was located at St. Louis, MO. Dr. Pless said that it's likely that no one in WELS had ever seen a number of the pictures displayed in the presentation.

Next meeting of WLS Alumni: September 19, 2011

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

(Those who had ordered a light lunch by RSVP enjoyed their meal in the lower level of the dormitory.)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Carl W. Ziemer". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Pastor Carl Ziemer, Secretary

Attachments

- Minutes of the September 21, 2009 meeting
- The Chronicler's Report of WLS alumni who departed to glory since the 2009 annual meeting
- The 2009-2010 WLS Alumni Treasurer's Report
- The report of the WLS Alumni Anniversary Book Committee that is working to publish a book commemorating the 150 anniversary of WLS (Chairman Joel Pless).