

3rd Annual Convocation Carolinas Lutheran Women September 14, 2013

The 3rd Annual Convocation for the Carolinas Lutheran Women (CLW) was held at St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Maiden, North Carolina, on September 14, 2013. One hundred one women attending represented 25 congregations from North and South Carolina North American Lutheran Church (NALC) and Lutheran Congregations for Mission in Christ (LCMC). CLW Council member and Historian Brenda Dunn (St. John's, Statesville) provided prelude music as women gathered. Genevieve Lambert (St. Paul, Salisbury), CLW Council Chair, welcomed those in attendance and introduced other Council members. Greetings and welcome were brought by Reba Reinhardt, St. Martin's Lutheran Church Women's President. St. Martin's Pastor Nathan Yoder opened the assembly with prayer.

Lambert highlighted the Council's activities since the last convocation. The Council met six times since October 2012. They have continued to revise the map created two years ago to show North and South Carolina LCMC/NALC congregations and marked those affiliated with the women's organization. Lambert has maintained our website (www.carolinaslutheranwomen.org). An informational meeting was held in Charleston, SC in April. Greetings and a display were shared at the Carolinas Mission District Convocation in the spring. The project ideas continue to be expanded on the website. Mailings or emailings provide updates from all meetings to the individual contact list, as well as North and South Carolina LCMC/NALC congregations.

Pastor Nathan H. memorialized all those sisters who joined the church triumphant this past year. Lisa Overcash (Faith, Faith) read the scripture from Romans 12:1-2, and the women joined in the opening hymn, "Take My Life, That I May Be."

Brenda Dunn (St. John's, Statesville) led us in a Bible Study titled "Signs of a Classic Woman" (heritage, value, recognizable, timeless, quality).

The business session began with the roll call by Sandra Bollinger (New Jerusalem, Hickory), Secretary. She called attention to the list of affiliated congregations on page 7 of the program: Advent, Kings Mountain – 8; Advent, North Charleston – 2; Christ United, Granite Falls – 6, Christiana, Salisbury – 1; Concordia, China Grove – 2; Faith, Faith – 3; Holy Trinity, Gastonia – 2; Holy Trinity, Troutman – 5; Immanuel, Rockwell – 2; Immanuel, Sumter – 6; Miller's, Hickory – 3; Mt. Calvary, Claremont – 6; New Jerusalem, Hickory – 3; Our Saviour, Dallas – 4; Salem, Salisbury – 2; Shiloh, Hickory – 3; St. James, Newton – 5; St. John's, Statesville – 6; St. Martin's, Maiden – 20; St. Matthew's, Salisbury – 1; St. Paul's, Salisbury – 1; St. Peter, Chapin – 2; St. Timothy, Goose Creek – 3; Trinity, Landis – 3; Union, Salisbury – 2

2 Total Women Present: 101, Churches represented – 25

CLW President Lambert stated that minutes from the last Convocation were on the tables and had also been posted on the website. She asked if anyone had any questions/comments about them. A motion to approve the 2012 Convocation Minutes was made by Jayne Lingle (Faith, Faith) and seconded by Reba Reinhardt (St. Martin's, Maiden). The motion passed unanimously.

LaVaughn Beaver (Christiana, Salisbury) provided the Treasurer's report on pages 7-9. The balance as of October 12, 2013 is \$1568.16. She explained about contributions and offerings for the day. The Treasurer's records are audited with Christiana's books, and checks are made to Christiana Lutheran Church for the CLW. Georgia Adams (Concordia, China Grove) made a motion to approve the report, and Deena Lanning (Union, Salisbury) seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Equity of voting for CLW was our next topic of discussion. Recommendations will be given to the CLW Council. We were not voting on this issue at this convocation. One representative from each church was permitted to speak for a total of five minutes. The CLW Guidelines were available on pages 8-9 for reference. Suggestions were to offer vote by proxy and to cap how many can vote from each church. Concerns and comments were that it may encourage more people to attend if they each have a vote, and if someone attends she should have a right to vote. There was also the concern that fewer people would attend if they could not vote. These suggestions, comments, and concerns will be addressed by the Council for further action.

A short break was held followed by an Icebreaker led by Dunn (St. John's, Statesville).

Ann Tucker (Union, Salisbury) presented the following nominees for Council: LaVaughn Beaver (Christiana, Salisbury), Susanne Bebbler (Concordia, China Grove), and Genevieve Lambert (St. Paul's, Salisbury). Pam Cansler (St. Martin's, Maiden) was nominated from the floor by Tucker. Reba Reinhardt (St. Martin's, Maiden) made a motion that we accept the four nominees by acclamation. Darbie Crouch (St. James, Newton) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Pastor Nathan Yoder had a prayer before the voting.

Thelma Horres (Advent, North Charleston), CLW Council member, had a prayer for our love offering for the Department of Lutheran Studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Charlotte. The total amount collected was \$1,100. In-kind gifts for ECCCM (Eastern Catawba County Cooperative Ministry) totaled 232 pounds of canned goods and _____.

Our program was "A Classic Fashion Show" taken from the internet and adapted for today by Beaver and Dunn. The theme was that God is not interested in our wardrobe selections. He loves us just as we are, but sees our potential for more. Through his sacraments, He can transform us into "Classic Christian Women." Our signature look will be a trust in His goodness and we will be able to "laugh with joy at the days to come."

Pastor Yoder installed the newly elected Council members. He then had the benediction followed by everyone singing "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."

Following the benediction, lunch was provided by the women of St. Martin's, Maiden. Desserts were provided by the women of New Jerusalem, Hickory.

Lisa Overcash
Carolinas Lutheran Women's Council Member
Faith Lutheran Church, Faith, NC