



WELS
Canada

Communique

MARCH 2023

Business as (Not So) Usual

Elections are a regular part of every Annual General Meeting agenda. So, when the voting delegates assembled in Mississauga, ON in November 2022, it was expected to be business as usual. As is often the case, however, the Lord had other plans, the beginnings of which could be traced back at least a year earlier.

Following his retirement in 2021, Robert Brander stepped down from his role as the Treasurer for WELS Canada, a post which he had served for 8 years. While plans were laid to prepare for this transition, it quickly became evident that we had underestimated the scope of work required of the Treasurer. Over the course of the next 12 months, 3 different individuals were asked to manage WELS Canada finances - a job that usually runs best with at least annual continuity.

Meanwhile, in the Spring of 2022, WELS Canada Vice President, Rev. David Boettcher accepted a call to serve as pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Salt Lake City, UT. A few months later, Rev. Pete Metzger was appointed Vice President pro tem for the remainder of Rev. Boettcher's term.

Then, in October 2022 - just a month before "business as usual" was scheduled to go underway - our WELS Canada President received two pieces of news: he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, an incurable but treatable form of blood cancer, and then, a week later, he received a call to serve as the Director of the Pastoral Studies Institute at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, WI.

The regularly scheduled elections suddenly became that much more significant.

Rev. Goetzinger was re-elected WELS Canada President, but with the understanding that, one way or another, he would not complete his one-year term. Rev. Metzger had his appointment to Vice President officially ratified by a vote of the assembly. Mr. Jim Petrie and Mr. Spencer Beach were elected to the Board of Directors (Mr. Petrie ultimately being appointed by the Board as its Treasurer).

Today, we are thankful to report that Rev. Goetzinger is receiving treatment for his cancer and that the prognosis is so positive that he accepted his call to be the PSI Director. He will stay on at St. Paul, Ottawa through the duration of his treatment. He will also retain the title of WELS Canada President until he moves to Wisconsin, but will serve in a more advisory role.



Attendees at the 2022 AGM at Cross of Life Lutheran Church, Mississauga, ON.

In the meantime, Rev. Metzger will perform many of the functions of the WELS Canada President until Rev. Goetzinger moves, at which time he will become President pro tem. Official elections will take place at the AGM in St. Albert, AB in November 2023.

We are very grateful for the 15 years of service that Rev. Goetzinger dedicated to WELS Canada during his tenure as President, and wish him God's richest blessings for his personal health, his family's move, and his new call. We thank God for you, Rev. Goetzinger!

We are also very grateful for the willing service of an almost-all-new Board of Directors. Prior to the next round of elections in November, the Board will be seeking to appoint a 2nd Vice President, and will be working diligently to recruit additional nominees for service on the Board of Directors as there is still one required position vacant (Secretary), but also with the knowledge that the more Directors we have, the more work we can do and the more goals we can accomplish for the glory of God's name and the advancement of his kingdom in Canada.



Rev. Skip Goetzinger
President
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Ottawa, ON



Rev. Pete Metzger
Vice President
St. Peter Lutheran Church
St. Albert, AB



Mr. Jim Petrie
Treasurer
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Ottawa, ON



Mr. Ken Wings
Director at Large
Divine Word Luth. Church
Ottawa, ON



Mr. Spencer Beach
Director at Large
St. Peter Lutheran Church
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