

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

While this is my first opportunity to communicate by the News Letter to you as a congregation, I was encouraged to report to you from our church body's annual conference held back in June the 16 through the 19th.

It is a most difficult task to describe such conferences and the sense of what happened during those days that goes beyond a factual accounting of activities and decisions made at conference. This was the 59th Annual Conference of the A.F.L.C. and it seems hard to believe that I have personally been a part of it for sixty seven of those sixty nine years.

This year we met under the theme, "Prepare the way of the Lord," from Isaiah 40:3. That has been the mission of the A.F.L.C. throughout the years and God has blessed us in that commitment and we are renewed in that commitment as we look to the future.

Here is a brief report on some of the happenings that took place during conference and decisions made:

A.F.L.C. Annual Conference Report:

- The conference was hosted this year by the AFLC Schools in the new Student Center which was dedicated this spring.
- We were reminded to be in prayer for the election of the president at next year's conference as Pastor Korhonen has said that this is his last term.
- The Free Lutheran Bible College has determined that at 150 students they would be at full capacity, but with 138 it would break even. To pray for a minimum of 138 students for this fall.
- Following faculty members received their Doctorate of Ministry degrees: Wade Mobley, Jerry Moan and Jason Holt. Brent Olson received his PHD.
- Dr. Nathan Olson has been hired as an additional faculty member.
- Pastor Robert Lee retired after 25 years as a faculty member.
- The Missions Corporation at its annual meeting voted to establish a second corporation for Home Mission dividing Home and World Mission into separate corporations.
- AFLC Publications and Parish Ed. dedicated the, Heritage Series Volume V of *Dr. Francis W Monseth, selected writings*. Books were on sale but not available yet. It was at the printer's.
- The AED (Evangelism & Discipleship) asked the congregations to prayerfully consider getting involved in the regional conferences, "Reawakening to Mission." The AFLC Northwest District is planning for a conference to be held at Atonement Free Lutheran, as a part of the Fall Bible Conference on Saturday November 20th.
- Conference next year, because of COVID restrictions still in place limiting options, will be held again at the Association Retreat Center in Wisconsin.

Let us as a congregation be encouraged to take up the conference theme and likewise look for ways to: Prepare the way of the Lord.

Pastor Richard Gunderson