

Western District Conference
August 1 & 2, 2020
Virtual Sessions
Alexanderwohl MC Delegate Summary

The WDC Assembly gatherings began with a recorded Keynote Address by Danny Carroll R. addressing the topic of the Bible and Immigration. I noted that I am an immigrant; we are all immigrants into the Kingdom of God. The Old Testament contains many stories of God's people as immigrants and victims of governing powers regulating the lives of God's followers.

The New Testament encourages my "Gentile" immigration into the Kingdom of God. I need to be aware that we are all immigrants into our Heavenly Home and the Kingdom of God. Immigrants or natives, the expectation is for all to love their neighbors. Danny Carroll R. gave several examples of the integration of God's people into the local society from the Old Testament. Daniel, Esther, Ruth are a few of the characters who encountered residence in a foreign land.

Saturday afternoon we had a conversation with Danny Carroll R. concerning the topics of his opening lecture and his experience with immigration and integration. One very significant fact to be recognized is that both the native and the immigrant are uneasy, fearful, sometimes lack trust, and must make a concerted effort to share in the responsibility of healing. The multiple facets of the Hispanic community are not unlike the varied facets of the resident or dominant social group. (Why should we love the immigrant—Because God does.)

The Business Session: WDC continues the mission. We elected and filled the board and commission vacancies. Reports were heard and accepted. The budget was presented and approved. Revenue is a struggle; however our conference leadership is making staff reduction and additional adjustments to enable the continued work of people and churches. WDC budget was approved with realization that the future is unknown. Unfilled staff positions will be restored when resources allow.

Workshops and webinars enlightened us concerning the hymn book project, youth ministry, the WDC Library and being missional in the COVID era.

Arlin Buller

Synopsis:

I came to realize I am an immigrant; we all are immigrants, into the Kingdom of God. We are invited and we commit to a new citizenship. Danny Carrol R. emphasized that the immigrant t is to be loved. Why should we love the immigrant—Because God does.