

2010 South Dakota Synod Assembly

Resolutions

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Resolution: 1
Recommendation: Do Pass
Action Taken:

Subject: Elect South Dakota Synod Council Members
Source: Resolutions Committee

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, ELCA elect the following conference nominees to the South Dakota Synod Council for a term of four years:

Medary Conference (Lay Female)
Crossroads Conference (Clergy)

Southeastern Conference (Lay Male)
Prairie Rivers Conference (Clergy)
Bear Butte Conference (Lay Male)

Verdelle Anderson, Lake Norden
Rev. Jonathan Halvorson,
Sioux Falls
Steven Koenig, Tyndall
Rev. David Winterfeldt, Dimock
Duane Abata, Rapid City

Resolution: 2
Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do Pass
Action Taken:

Subject: Elect 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members
Source: Resolutions Committee

RESOLVED, that the 2010 South Dakota Synod Assembly elect the following voting members and alternates to the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, August 14-20, Orlando, FL, nominated by conferences and the Synod Council:

PRAIRIE COTEAU CONFERENCE – One Clergy, One Lay Male

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. William A. Olsen, Webster
Clergy Alternate: Rev. Robin R. Wanner-Schaunaman, Clark

Lay Male Voting Member: Douglas G. Olawsky, Webster
Lay Male Alternate: Jeffrey A Gregg, Sisseton

MEDARY CONFERENCE – One Clergy, One Lay Female, One Lay Male

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Rebecca L. Senner, Oldham
Clergy Alternate:

Lay Female Voting Member: Mary Scarbrough, Brookings
Lay Female Alternate: Cheryl S. Iverson, Madison

Lay Male Voting Member: Steve Scarbrough, Brookings
Lay Male Alternate: James T. Iverson, Madison

CROSSROADS CONFERENCE – Two Clergy, Two Lay Female, Two Lay Male

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Rolf D. Svano, Sioux Falls
Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Marlin L. Wangsness, Sioux Falls
Clergy 1st Alternate: Rev. Timothy E. Selbo, Sioux Falls
Clergy 2nd Alternate: Rev. Anthony L. Haglund, Canton

Lay Female Voting Member: Shari F. Lunders, Salem
Lay Female Voting Member: Rita L. Laumer, Lennox
Lay Female 1st Alternate: Rhonda Haglund, Canton
Lay Female 2nd Alternate: Holly Marty, Sioux Falls

Lay Male Voting Member: Jason D. Lunders, Salem
Lay Male Voting Member: Joel V. Laumer, Lennox
Lay Male 1st Alternate: Robert P. O'Connor, Sioux Falls
Lay Male 2nd Alternate: Ronald L. Nygaard, Davis

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE – One Clergy, One Lay Male

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Ralph A. Egbert, Gayville
Clergy Alternate: Rev. Gregory L. Myrmoe, Beresford

Lay Male Voting Member: Kyle T. Boese, Centerville
Lay Male Alternate: Roger Hansen, Centerville

NORTHERN PLAINS CONFERENCE – One Clergy, One Lay Female, One Lay Male

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Brian R. Wasmoen, Redfield
Clergy Alternate: Rev. David W. Peterson, Highmore

Lay Female Voting Member: Diane Dangel, Redfield
Lay Female Alternate: Mary E. Anderson, Timber Lake

Lay Male Voting Member: Brett M. Koenecke, Pierre
Lay Male Alternate: Alan C. Hoerth, Aberdeen

PRAIRIE RIVERS CONFERENCE - One Clergy, One Lay Female

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Jonathan L. Vihar, Scotland
Clergy Alternate: Rev. Rick R. Senner, Huron

Lay Female Voting Member: Rose M. Lauck, Corsica
Lay Female Alternate: Sheryn Ekstrum, Kimball

BEAR BUTTE CONFERENCE – One Clergy, One Lay Female, One Lay Male

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Bruce H. Thalacker, Rapid City
Clergy Alternate: Rev. Jon A. Mapa, Rapid City

Lay Female Voting Member: Yvonne L. Steindal, AIM, Rapid City
Lay Female Alternate: LuAnn Denke, Rapid City

Lay Male Voting Member: Alan D. Dreyer, Piedmont
Lay Male Alternate: David Carrico, Lead

NOMINATED BY THE SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD COUNCIL

Youth Male: Travis Gerlach
Youth Male Alternate:

Youth Female:
Youth Female Alternate:

Synod Secretary: Carla Borchardt, Sioux Falls
Synod Vice President: By virtue of Position
Synod Bishop: Bishop David B. Zellmer, Sioux Falls

Resolution: 3
Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do pass
Action Taken:

Subject: 2011 Compensation and Guidelines for Clergy and Lay Staff
Source: Committee for Support to Ministries and its Compensation Task Force from Northern Plains Conference

RESOLVED, that the “2011 Compensation and Guidelines for Clergy” and “2011 Compensation for Lay Staff,” prepared by a task force of the Northern Plains Conference for the Committee for Support to Ministries and recommended by the committee for adoption, be adopted as the policy of the South Dakota Synod by the 2010 South Dakota Synod Assembly.

Resolution: 4
Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do pass
Action Taken:

Subject: Underfunding of ELCA Board of Pensions
Source: Bear Butte Conference

WHEREAS, the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund ("the Fund") experienced significant losses as a result of the recession that began in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the board of trustees of the ELCA Board of Pensions, in consultation with Board of Pensions senior staff and advisors, acted in a number of ways to address losses in the Fund, including: closing the Fund to new contributions; reducing payments to annuitants in the Fund by 9% for 2010; advising annuitants of potential decreases in annuity payments in 2011 and 2012; reducing in 2010 by 3.5% the value of not yet annuitized accounts of participants in the bridge component of the Fund; and advising these participants of potential decreases in account values in 2011 and 2012; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 reductions and possible future reductions have the potential of working severe hardships on many with fixed financial responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund was created to provide assistance for eligible plan participants, spouses, and surviving spouses, who have financial need; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly requests the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to consult with the Board of Pensions regarding the background of, reasons for, and implications of the decisions made with respect to the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund, to explore possible alternative ways to restore Fund losses and increase payment levels for annuitants and account values for those with bridge component accounts not yet annuitized, and to report on the results of the consultation at the November 2010 meeting of the Church Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, that steps be explored to mitigate the adverse effects of the Fund reductions and possible future reductions, including the expansion and promotion of the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and possible action.

Resolution: 5
Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do pass
Action Taken:

Subject: Resolution Concerning the Termination of the Augsburg Fortress Pension Plan
Source: Rev. Daniel Ostercamp, St. John's Lutheran Church, Webster, South Dakota
and Prairie Coteau Conference

Whereas, "Augsburg Fortress Publishers, a separately incorporated program unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America"), a unit of this church, terminated its defined benefit pension plan by action of its Board of Trustees in December 2009; and

Whereas, the termination of the Augsburg Fortress defined benefit pension plan has adversely affected approximately 500 present and former employees; and

Whereas, individuals have asked about the background and reasons for the actions of the Augsburg Fortress Board of Trustees, and it is important to provide accurate and complete information regarding the termination; therefore be it

Resolved, that the South Dakota Synod, in assembly, ask its Synod Council and Synod Bishop to express deep concern to the ELCA Church Council and Presiding Bishop about the burdens that have been placed upon the past and present faithful servants of our church's publishing house; and be it further

Resolved, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly, directs the South Dakota Synod Council to ask the ELCA Church Council to seek means of restoring pension funds for the past and present faithful servants who were promised annuity benefits through the Augsburg Fortress Pension Plan; and be it further

Resolved, that the South Dakota Synod, in assembly, directs the South Dakota Synod Council to ask the ELCA Church Council to conduct a review of the actions of management and trustees, of Augsburg Fortress Publishers, regarding the background, reasons for and implications of the termination of its defined benefits plan, and to report on the results of the review at the November 2010 meeting of the Church Council; and be it further

Resolved, that the South Dakota Synod, in assembly, direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and possible action.

Resolution: 6
Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: No Recommendation
Action Taken:

Subject: Reconsider and Remove the Social Statement, “Human Sexuality: Gift & Trust”
Source: Prairie Coteau, Prairie Rivers, Bear Butte Conferences, Bethel Lutheran Church, Astoria, and Highland Lutheran Church, Brandt

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in accordance with ELCA bylaw 12.12.01, adopted a social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” by exactly a two-thirds vote; and

WHEREAS, in Part IV (lines 620 – 628 in the Pre-Assembly Report) this social statement reads: The historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions have recognized marriage as a covenant between a man and a woman, reflecting Mark 10: 6–9: “But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one put asunder.” (Jesus here recalls Genesis 1:27; 2:23–24.); and

WHEREAS, in Part IV (lines 740 – 744, as amended, of the Pre-Assembly Report) this social statement reads: “Recognizing that this conclusion differs from the historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions, some people, though not all, in this church and within the larger Christian community, conclude that marriage is also the appropriate term to use in describing similar benefits, protection, and support for same-gender couples entering into lifelong monogamous relationships”; and

WHEREAS, the social statement has generated substantial disagreement and debate among faithful members of the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, some members of the South Dakota Synod of the ELCA believe that the social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” should be reconsidered and removed; and

WHEREAS, “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” expressly provides for reconsideration and removal of a Social Statement by the Churchwide Assembly following its adoption; and

WHEREAS, the Confession of Faith of the ELCA (Chapter 2 of the ELCA Constitution) commits the ELCA to accept the canonical Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm of our proclamation, faith and life, and to accept the confessional writings of the Lutheran Church as a true witness of the Gospel and valid interpretations of the faith of the Church; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly, expresses its conviction that the decisions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly in adopting the social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” violate the Confession of Faith, of the ELCA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly, memorializes the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to reconsider and remove the social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns.”

Resolution: 7
Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: No Recommendation
Action Taken:

Subject: Resolution to Rescind Actions on Ministry Policies
Source: Prairie Rivers and Bear Butte Conferences

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted resolutions on ministry policies that included a commitment to “finding ways for people in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church” [CA09.05.26] and also included a process of “structured flexibility” that would eliminate the prohibition on rostered service by individuals in such relationships while not imposing such service on any expression of this church [CA09.05.27]; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with and in order to implement the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA Church Council has amended the policy on reinstatement to the roster and has considered amendments to “Visions and Expectations,” “Definition and Guidelines for Discipline,” the “Candidacy Manual,” and other documents; and

WHEREAS, a number of members of the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America seek the rescission of the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on ministry policies and of the actions adopted by the Church Council to implement them and desire the restoration of ministry policies that authorize sexual intimacy for rostered persons only in the context of heterosexual marriage; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly memorializes the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as follows:

- (1) to rescind actions CA09.05.26 and CA09.05.27 of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly; and
- (2) to direct the appropriate churchwide units and offices to prepare, the Committee on Appeals to make, and the ELCA Church Council to approve and adopt, appropriate amendments to the policy documents, which were revised in response to those prior actions, in order to re-establish the prohibition of rostered service by non-celibate homosexual persons and to restore the requirement for rostered persons that sexual intimacy take place only in the context of heterosexual marriage.

Resolution: 8
Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do not pass
Action Taken:

Subject: Rescind the Four Resolutions which Changed Ministry Policies
Source: Prairie Coteau and Bear Butte Conferences

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA has adopted the social statement, “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust”; and

WHEREAS, in Part IV (lines 620 – 628 in the Pre-Assembly Report) this statement reads: **The historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions have recognized marriage as a covenant between a man and a woman, reflecting Mark 10: 6–9: “But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one put asunder.”** (Jesus here recalls Genesis 1:27; 2:23–24.); and

WHEREAS, in Part IV (lines 740 – 744, as amended, of the Pre-Assembly Report) it reads: **Recognizing that this conclusion differs from the historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions, some people, though not all, in this church and within the larger Christian community, conclude that marriage is also the appropriate term to use in describing similar benefits, protection, and support for same-gender couples entering into lifelong monogamous relationships;** and

WHEREAS, the statement then goes on to treat these two positions and the variants within them as of equal validity, on the basis of the “conscience-bound beliefs” of those who hold them (Part IV, lines 809 – 868 of the Pre-Assembly Report); and

WHEREAS, on this same basis of the “conscience-bound lack of consensus in this church” (lines 452 – 453 of the Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies in Part V of the Pre-Assembly Report) the resolutions on ministry policies (SA09.05.23 – 24 – 26 & 27) were adopted; and

WHEREAS, neither the Social Statement nor the Recommendation on Ministry Policies present an argument based on Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions and with the aid of sound reason either to reject what is admitted to be the position of the historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions based on Scripture or to accept a position which is admitted to be contrary to the historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions; and

WHEREAS, the Confession of Faith of the ELCA (Chapter 2 of the ELCA Constitution) commits the ELCA to accept the canonical Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm of our proclamation, faith and life, and to accept the confessional writings of the Lutheran Church as a true witness of the Gospel and valid interpretations of the faith of the Church; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2010 South Dakota Synod Assembly express its conviction that the decisions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly in adopting the 4 Resolutions on Ministry Policies (CA09.05.23 – 24 – 26 & 27) violate of the Confession of Faith, Chapter 2 of the ELCA Constitution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2010 South Dakota Synod Assembly memorialize the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to recognize that this action by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly are violations of the Confession of Faith, Chapter 2 of the ELCA Constitution, and to rescind it on this basis.

Resolution: 9

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do pass

Action Taken:

Subject: Mental Illness – Brain Disorder Education

Source: Pastors of First Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota – Senior Pastor: Rev. John Christopherson, Associate Pastors: Jason Burggraff, Rev. Natanael Lizarazo, Rev. Barbara Wangsness

EDITS COMING

WHEREAS, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that serious mental illnesses such as major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, severe anxiety disorders, borderline personality disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder affect one in every four people annually (in the USA); and

WHEREAS, serious mental illnesses are more common than cancer, diabetes and heart disease, and are the number one reason for hospital admissions nationwide; and

WHEREAS, serious mental illnesses have been scientifically proven to be highly treatable illnesses of the brain; and

WHEREAS, scientific research is producing tremendous breakthroughs in the understanding of mental illness, resulting in more effective treatments that allow people to reclaim full and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, misunderstandings exist about many mental illnesses and our social culture often wrongly imposes stigma on them; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, at its 1989 Churchwide Assembly, passed a resolution that, "The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall, through its synods, congregations, and pastors, serve as an agent of education, acceptance, support, understanding, and healing for those with mental illnesses, and those affected by the mental illness of others." (Section 19 - Mental Illness); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod encourage its religious leaders, both laity and ordained, to become educated about mental illness through educational resources offered by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) through one of our South Dakota NAMI affiliates and through other faith related mental health resource organizations (ie: Mental Health Ministries, NAMI Faith.Net, Pathways to Promise); and

RESOLVED, that pastors of the South Dakota Synod be encouraged to connect members of their congregations facing these issues, both people living with the brain disorders of mental illness and their families and friends, with a NAMI affiliate organization near them (ie: Aberdeen, Brookings, Huron, Northern Hills, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Watertown, Yankton).

NOTE: NAMI provides educational and support systems to both clients and families of clients; it does not provide mental health counseling.

Resolution: 10
Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do pass
Action Taken:

Subject: Commitment to Unity within the South Dakota Synod
Source: Bear Butte Conference

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of the South Dakota Synod is to “manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives” (*South Dakota Synod Constitution, S6.02.f*); and

WHEREAS, the actions of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly have caused division in many congregations in the South Dakota Synod and have caused some individuals and congregations in the South Dakota Synod to evaluate their affiliation with the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, some individuals and congregations in the South Dakota Synod have chosen or will choose to end their affiliation with the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, some individuals and congregations that choose to leave the ELCA may wish to continue in some sort of unity and shared ministry with the South Dakota Synod; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod express its grief that the actions of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly on sexuality have led to division among individuals and congregations in the South Dakota Synod; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod express its desire to maintain whatever unity and shared ministry might be possible with individuals and congregations that choose to end their affiliation with the ELCA as an expression of this synod’s commitment to “manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives;” and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2010 South Dakota Synod Assembly ask its Bishop and Synod Council to pursue and recommend ways to “manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives” with individuals and congregations that choose to end their affiliation with the ELCA.

Resolution: 11
Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do not pass
Action Taken:

Subject: E.L.C.A. Churchwide Constitutional Amendment
Source: Trinity Lutheran Church, Mitchell, South Dakota – Adopted 1/17/2010

WHEREAS, Chapter 12.11 of the ELCA Constitution states that the Churchwide Assembly shall be the highest legislative authority of the churchwide organization and shall deal with all matters which are necessary in pursuit of the purposes and functions of this church. The powers of the Churchwide Assembly are limited only by the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, this constitution and bylaws, and the assembly's own resolutions; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 5.01.c. of the ELCA Constitution states in part – Whenever possible, the entity most directly affected by a decision shall be the principal party responsible for decision and implementation, with the other entities facilitating and assisting. Each congregation, synod, and separately incorporated unit of the churchwide organization, as well as the churchwide organization itself, is a separate legal entity and is responsible for exercising its powers and authorities; and

WHEREAS, there are social issues that deeply affect individuals at a personal level as well as within families and congregations. These issues need to be ratified by each voting member of the E.L.C.A. and not solely by the delegates to the Churchwide Assembly; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a provision be made to allow every voting member of the E.L.C.A. voting privileges by referendum. This referendum shall be carried out by petition providing signatures from voting members representing 1% of the worshipping membership. (worshipping membership is currently 1,357,098 persons according to the E.L.C.A. web site – <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Large-Membership-Congregations/Frequently-Asked-Questions.aspx>) This provision shall be allowed on any action taken by Churchwide Assembly before going into effect. Be it enacted by the E.L.C.A. The governing body shall make suitable provisions for carrying into effect the provisions of this section: and be it further

RESOLVED, that this provision be retroactive to the last 2 Churchwide Assemblies.

Resolution: 12
Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do pass
Action Taken:

Subject: Asking for a renewed focus on our common mission of ending poverty and injustice Resolution
Source: Pastor Aaron Matson, Leganger and Wood Lake Lutheran Churches

WHEREAS, Scripture tells us that the Lord says, "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?" (Isaiah 58: 6-7); and

WHEREAS, Scripture also reads, "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8); and

WHEREAS, Scripture further reads, "Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy." (Proverbs 31:8-9); and

WHEREAS, Scripture tells us that Jesus says in a parable that "just as you did to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40); and

WHEREAS, our Lutheran heritage has a strong tradition of caring for and speaking out on behalf of those in need, including the words of Martin Luther in the Large Catechism "If you send a naked person away when you could clothe him, you have let him freeze to death. If you see anyone suffering from hunger and do not feed her, you have let her starve." (*Book of Concord, Large Catechism, Explanation of the Fifth Commandment*); and

WHEREAS, in the covenant God made with us in Holy Baptism and that we vow to continue when we affirm our baptisms, we pledge "to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth" (*Lutheran Book of Worship and Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Holy Baptism and Affirmation of Baptism*); and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran heritage of caring for and speaking out on behalf of those in need is continued today in the social statements of the ELCA "Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective," and "Economic Life: Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All," and in our work together in the forms of Lutheran World Relief, ELCA Disaster Response, ELCA World Hunger, ELCA Advocacy Ministries, ELCA Global Mission, and many other programs and ministries at the congregational, synodical, and churchwide level, within our denomination and with ecumenical partners; and

WHEREAS, there is more work to do: people who need food, clothing and shelter, who suffer

under unjust economic and social structures and systems in our communities and around the world; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly affirms the work being done at the congregational, synodical, and churchwide level on behalf of those in need; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly pledges to renew our focus and commitment to working with those programs and ministries at the congregational, synodical, and churchwide level of the ELCA, and our ecumenical partners, in common mission to end poverty and injustice in our communities and around the world; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly urges other synods to join us in this renewed focus toward our common mission to end poverty and injustice in our communities and in our world.

Resolution: 13
Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do pass
Action Taken:

Subject: Freedom for Mission Resolution Encouraging Mission Partnerships
Source: Evangelical Outreach Committee

WHEREAS, Jesus teaches, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34) and the New Testament Church grew with the Holy Spirit working through the generosity of its members who "had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need" (Acts 2:45); and

WHEREAS, Chapter 4.02b of the Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states: "To participate in God's mission, this church shall: Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ..." and "To fulfill these purposes, this church shall: receive, establish and support those congregations, ministries, organizations, institutions and agencies necessary to carry out God's mission through this church;" and

WHEREAS, one of the five strategic directions adopted by the Church Council of the ELCA in April of 2003 is to "Assist members, congregations, synods, and institutions and agencies of this church to grow in evangelical outreach;" and

WHEREAS, in the pursuit of this strategy, God has led this church to "engage leaders in the formation of evangelizing congregations that make disciples for Jesus Christ..."¹ so that one day all will come to know the Freedom of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, God's gift of Freedom for mission in South Dakota has inspired many congregations and individuals over the last 25 years to generously share gifts of *prayer, presence and presents*² with new and renewing ministries so that they, in turn become a blessing to others; and

WHEREAS, God has made use of these gifts to bring about a wider sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ through such ministries as Holy Cross, Gloria Dei, Messiah New Hope, Spirit of Joy, Augustana Lutheran in Sioux Falls, Holy Cross in Aberdeen, Christ the King in Yankton; and

WHEREAS, God continues to bring about new opportunities for partnership and the sharing of gifts through such ministries as Rejoice! in Sioux Falls, Lutheran Lakota Share Ministries in Pine Ridge, Woyatan in Rapid City, The African Ministry at First Lutheran, Messiah New Hope and Springdale in Sioux Falls and St. Dysmas in Sioux Falls and Yankton;³ and

WHEREAS, our experience in God's mission in South Dakota has taught us that the healthiest missions are those that are strongly supported by the synod and by local congregations and by ELCA Christians from around South Dakota; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that in the Freedom and Joy of the Gospel, we as congregations and members of the South Dakota Synod give our hands to God’s work toward the renewal of congregations, starting new evangelizing congregations and starting new ministries with the poor; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the Freedom and Joy of the Gospel, every congregation in South Dakota offer *Prayers* for our new and renewing congregations who have been designated as mission partners⁴ for the sake of God’s mission; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the Freedom and Joy of the Gospel every congregation council in South Dakota schedule time in their meeting agendas to formally consider entering into a “Mission Partner” relationship with one of our new or renewing ministries of the South Dakota Synod; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the freedom and joy of the Gospel such congregations who chose to enter into a formal “Mission Partner” relationship with one of our new or renewing ministries of the South Dakota Synod would freely share their *Presence* with their mission partner through worship visitation and relationship building with the leaders and participants in the mission; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the freedom and joy of the Gospel such congregations who chose to enter into a formal “Mission Partner” relationship with one of our new or renewing ministries of the South Dakota Synod would freely give their hands to God's work through the offering of *Presents* with their mission partner: such as the sharing of the talents of members and the sharing of generous financial support as God makes them able.

¹ Unit for Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission (EOCM) Purpose Statement, September, 2007 (The Unit for Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission is the largest Unit of the ELCA. It oversees the development of new and renewing congregations and new ministries with the poor.)

² The words “Prayer, Presence and Presents” have long been used in Mission Partner communications of the ELCA to describe what one congregation may offer another as its mission partner. For example from the ELCA website on Mission Partners: “Through supportive relationships—*Prayer, Presence, and Presents*—these congregations share in the excitement of proclaiming God’s love. They understand that God has blessed them to be blessings for others.” For more information about Mission Partnerships see the following link on the ELCA website: <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Discipleship/Mission-Partners-Founders-Builders.aspx>

³ For further information on Mission Partner opportunities in South Dakota please see the Mission Partner Focus magazine or speak to Pastor Bill Tesch, the Director of Evangelical Mission for the South Dakota Synod at: btesch@sdsynod.org, or visit the South Dakota synod Website at www.sdsynod.org.