

**Resolution: 10**  
**Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do pass**  
**Action Taken: Adopted as Amended**  
(yes = 232, no = 165, abstain = 18)

**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 as pastors and congregations discern their relationships with the ELCA and with other church bodies that the 2010 Synod Assembly urge the Bishop and Synod Council to exercise restraint in the discipline of congregations and pastors; 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.