

1 **PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS – Committee #1**
2 **Missions, Evangelism, Human Care**

3
4 **To Promote Lutheran Identity in the Mission Field**

5
6 **R-09-01-01**

7
8 Reference Overture 09-01-01

9
10 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Convention
11 assembled established the *Ablaze!*® mission outreach movement to encourage, among
12 other things the laudable goal of planting and establishing 2000 new congregations in the
13 United States by 2017 (Resolution 1-05A, Convention Proceedings 2004, p. 121); and
14

15 WHEREAS, The people of God should at all times and in every way “be prepared
16 to give an answer to anyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have”
17 (1 Peter 3:15 NIV); and
18

19 WHEREAS, This hope is revealed to us in the gracious Truth of God’s Word (cf.
20 Col. 1:3-6); and
21

22 WHEREAS, We accept “all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran
23 Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God,”
24 (Constitution of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Article II, Section 2); and
25

26 WHEREAS, We are instructed by God’s Holy Word to declare His truth openly,
27 without cunning or underhanded tactics: “But we have renounced disgraceful,
28 underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by
29 the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in
30 the sight of God.” (2 Corinthians 4:2b ESV); and
31

32 WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) opined on
33 November 29, 1994 that “the Constitution of the Synod contains no specific article or
34 bylaw that can be used to defend congregations or recognized service organizations that
35 choose not to use LUTHERAN in their legal name. It could, in fact, be asked if the
36 congregation does not confess, does it have a confession, cf. Article VI.” (CCM Opinion
37 August, 1999, emphasis included); and
38

39 WHEREAS, The CCM also opined in August, 1999 that “the very intent of the
40 Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, to which the
41 congregation has voluntarily subscribed, make it implicitly clear that member
42 congregations are expected to use the name LUTHERAN in designating their
43 denominational identification” (emphasis included); and
44

45 WHEREAS, The LCMS in Convention concurred with the CCM, setting forth
46 that “all congregations and mission stations in our Synod boldly profess in their official

1 title and/or name that they are ‘Lutheran’” and “all congregations and mission stations of
2 our Synod state in their materials (bulletins, newsletters, etc.) that they belong to The
3 Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod” (Resolution 3-13A, 1995 Convention Proceedings, p.
4 125); and

5
6 WHEREAS, The limited resources available requires the LCMS to make
7 decisions and discernments regarding where best to utilize those resources; therefore be it

8
9 *Resolved*, That we, the congregations of the Central Illinois District of the
10 Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod assembled in convention, memorialize the LCMS
11 assembled in convention to use the rationale detailed above; and be it further

12
13 *Resolved*, That the goal of all member congregations of the LCMS should be to
14 reach out to the lost and erring with the true and unadulterated, saving message of the
15 Gospel; and be it further

16
17 *Resolved*, That 1995 Resolution 3-13A be commended to the member
18 congregations of the LCMS for their guidance on what constitutes moral and ethical
19 outreach; and be it further

20
21 *Resolved*, That all member congregations of the LCMS confess the name
22 “Lutheran” and their membership in the LCMS in their working name and regular
23 communications (e.g. “Grace Lutheran Church” rather than just “Grace Church,” etc.);
24 and be it finally

25
26 *Resolved*, That the Treasurer of Synod, and all Synodical entities and corporations
27 be prohibited from making any payments (either cash or in-kind) to any congregation that
28 fails to comport itself according to the ethical guidelines and confessional standard set
29 forth by the Synod in convention through its resolutions, by-laws, and constitution. These
30 payments include, but are not limited to, grants and subsidies.

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32
33 **To Expand Word and Sacrament Mission Work**

34
35 **R-09-01-02**

36
37 Reference Overture 09-01-02

38
39 WHEREAS, Our Lord commissioned His Church to disciple the nations through
40 Word (“teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...” (Mt. 28:20)) and
41 Sacrament (“baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy
42 Spirit” (Mt. 28:19)) ministry; and

43
44 WHEREAS, The number of missionaries sent by the Lutheran Church-Missouri
45 Synod into the foreign mission field and who have been called and ordained by God
46 through His Church for Word and Sacrament ministry has been declining (1967 - 167

1 called pastors, 1972 - 128 called pastors, 1982 - 65 called pastors, 2006 - 27 called
2 pastors); and
3

4 WHEREAS, Several of the ordained missionaries recalled from the mission field
5 were not financial liabilities to LCMS World Mission since they were quite successful at
6 raising the \$120,000 of designated gifts and offerings which they were required to raise
7 in order to be stationed at a foreign mission; and
8

9 WHEREAS, There is no shortage of the supply of pastors, as demonstrated by the
10 number of seminary candidates each year who do not receive assignments on Call Day;
11 therefore be it
12

13 *Resolved*, That we, the congregations of the Central Illinois District of the
14 Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod assembled in convention, encourage LCMS World
15 Mission to expand the Word and Sacrament ministry accomplished in the mission field
16 by increasing the number of ordained missionaries placed in foreign assignments.
17

18
19 **To Encourage Attendance at the Central Illinois District**
20 **Great Commission Convocation**
21

22 **R-09-01-03**
23

24 Reference Overture 09-01-03
25

26 WHEREAS, Evidence indicates that America is in a non-Christian era, and its
27 people are in desperate need to hear the truthful and relevant message of salvation and
28 life in Jesus Christ; and
29

30 WHEREAS, Many men, women, and children are living and dying without saving
31 faith in Jesus Christ; and
32

33 WHEREAS, Our church workers and members of our congregations can benefit
34 from additional skills, training, knowledge, and resources for evangelism work; and
35

36 WHEREAS, The Great Commission Convocation can serve to strengthen the
37 church in her mission to serve others and to seek the lost through the use of the means of
38 grace; and
39

40 WHEREAS, The Central Illinois District Board of Directors and Central Illinois
41 District Evangelism Commission have scheduled a Great Commission Convocation,
42 Saturday, November 7, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Bloomington at 9:00 a.m. (featuring
43 Dr. Wallace Schulz); therefore be it
44

1 WHEREAS, The Lord commands His redeemed people to go into all the world
2 and preach the Gospel to all creation (Mark 16:15); and

3
4 WHEREAS, The Central Illinois District has been enjoying partnership with the
5 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia (ELCL) since 2004; and

6
7 WHEREAS, The people of the Central Illinois District and the people of the
8 Evangelical Lutheran Church in Latvia have been blessed by this partnership, and many
9 new friendships have arisen between us; and

10
11 WHEREAS, The people and congregations of the Central Illinois District
12 continue to keep the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Latvia in their prayers;
13 and

14
15 WHEREAS; The people and congregations of the Central Illinois District
16 continue financially to support mission projects for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of
17 Latvia and her churches (built Children’s Center, purchased cars for pastors, supported
18 seminary and seminary students, gave gifts for individual churches and their ministry,
19 provided their first Sunday school materials, provided meals for soup kitchen, etc.); and

20
21 WHEREAS, The opportunities and needs of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of
22 Latvia continue to be great; and

23
24 WHEREAS, God has blessed the Central Illinois District with an abundant
25 overflow of His gifts of resources; therefore be it

26
27 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District give thanks to God for our mission
28 partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia; and be it finally

29
30 *Resolved*, That the 56th Regular Convention of the Central Illinois District
31 continue our partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia, and encourage
32 our congregations to continue to support this mission partnership with their prayers,
33 regular communication, friendship, and resources.

34
35
36 **To Encourage Central Illinois Congregational Revitalization**

37
38 **R-09-01-08**

39
40 Reference Overture 09-01-08

41
42 WHEREAS, Our Lord’s mission is to extend the Kingdom of Jesus, “the Christ,
43 the Son of the living God” (Mt. 16:16) through the proclaiming of “repentance and the
44 forgiveness of sins” (Lk. 24:47); and

1 WHEREAS, Pastors and laity are called to live the baptismal life of repentance
2 and forgiveness of sins; and

3
4 WHEREAS, Many temptations exist to seek solutions apart from the Word of
5 God, “which will stand forever” (Is. 40:8); and

6
7 WHEREAS, This remains an ongoing challenge within the Central Illinois
8 District; therefore be it

9
10 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District offer its Revitalization Process to assist
11 our churches in a biblical and Lutheran-based approach to re-examine the mission field
12 around their congregations (through the District Mission Executive); and be it finally

13
14 *Resolved*, That interested congregations of the Central Illinois District be
15 encouraged prayerfully to consider this voluntary Revitalization Process.

16
17
18 **To Encourage Continued Support For Central Illinois District Missions**

19
20 **R-09-01-09**

21
22 WHEREAS, The Bible states “But you are a chosen people a royal priesthood, a
23 holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who
24 called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (I Peter 2:9); and

25
26 WHEREAS, The Central Illinois District has sought to be faithful to telling others
27 about Jesus Christ; and

28
29 WHEREAS, The Central Illinois District supports 18 missions:

30
31 **Mission Congregations**

32 Christ the King Lutheran Church, East Moline (Hispanic)
33 Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Buffalo
34 Grace Lutheran Church, Canton
35 Christ’s Family Lutheran Church, Mahomet
36 Our Savior Lutheran Church, St. Joseph

37 **Special Missions**

38 Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Jacksonville
39 Joy of Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Peoria
40 Ministry among the Developmentally Disabled
41 Lincoln Correctional Center, Lincoln
42 Logan Correctional Center, Lincoln
43 Pittsfield Work Camp, Pittsfield
44 Western Correctional Center, Mt. Sterling
45 Greene County Work Camp, Roodhouse

46 **Campus Ministry at**

47 University of Illinois, Champaign
48 Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

1 Illinois State University, Normal
2 Western Illinois University, Macomb
3 **Foreign Mission**
4 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia; and
5

6 WHEREAS, This requires the financial support of all Central Illinois District
7 congregations; therefore be it
8

9 *Resolved*, That congregations be encouraged to continue to support these Central
10 Illinois District Missions with their regular mission offerings to the Central Illinois
11 District; and be it finally
12

13 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District congregations be strongly encouraged
14 to have regular prayer in behalf of these ministries, realizing that only God the Holy
15 Spirit effects change in the hearts and lives of people.