

1     **RESOLUTION: 2-01**

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3     **SUBJECT:**     TO CONTINUE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT  
4                     (LCMS) WITH LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE CONCERNING COUNSELING  
5                     AND OTHER RELATED SERVICES  
6

7     **Background:** The South Dakota District was involved in social ministry throughout its history.  
8                     Prior to 1985, the District worked with Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota  
9                     (LSS) helping those who were “in the twilight years of this life,” imprisoned,  
10                    confined in various state institutions, and especially “to minister, wholly and holy,  
11                    to our brother, the American Indian.”<sup>1</sup> The District gave through its budget as well  
12                    as gifts from congregations to support this work. In 1969, the amount was \$10,000  
13                    (which would be \$73,350 in today’s dollars). During those days, the District elected  
14                    a pastoral and lay delegate to the Board of Directors of LSS. We also had one of  
15                    our pastors as a chaplain at the Human Services Center in Yankton as well as  
16                    others serving on the various reservations. Also in every convention manual there  
17                    was a report from the Director of LSS.  
18

19                    At the 1985 District Convention, Resolution 3-06, entitled “to Readjust LC-MS  
20                    Relationship with LSS” was passed. The first resolved was: “That the South  
21                    Dakota District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod withdraw from official  
22                    district involvement and affiliation with Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota.”<sup>2</sup>  
23                    Among the various reasons given for this change were: (1) “LSS of South Dakota  
24                    by its own admission cannot, due to employment policies as well as stated  
25                    interests and goals entirely live up to LC-MS expectations and (2) “LSS by its own  
26                    plans and projections anticipates moving into areas of interest and service which  
27                    will further conflict with Missouri Synod principles and practice.”<sup>3</sup>  
28

29                    So from 1985 on the District was not directly involved in adoption services,  
30                    counseling services or work in the various state institutions. The District has  
31                    funded a chaplain for the Sioux Falls Hospitals and set up ministries on both the  
32                    Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations.  
33

34                    In 2018, Lutheran Family Service (LFS) approached the Board of Directors of the  
35                    South Dakota District about the possibility of working cooperatively in South  
36                    Dakota. LFS is a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church  
37                    Missouri Synod. They are owned by Missouri Synod congregations in Iowa and  
38                    receive support from the Iowa East and West Districts of the LCMS. They do not  
39                    receive funding from any governmental organization and so are free to practice  
40                    our common Christian faith.  
41

42                    To determine interest in some sort of partnership visits were made with every  
43                    Circuit Pastors’ Conference (Winkels). Discussion was held about the ministry of  
44                    LFS as well as the needs in South Dakota. Out of this came the overwhelming  
45                    response that there was a need for Christian Counseling Services. The District  
46                    then entered into an agreement with LFS in December 2019 for LFS (1) to be  
47                    available to consult with pastors and other church workers in the counseling work  
48                    of the parish, (2) to work with church workers and their families about issues that  
49                    those individuals and families are struggling with through telehealth counseling  
50                    with counselors from LFS in Iowa, and (3) to train people in South Dakota to help

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<sup>1</sup> 1970 South Dakota District Convention. Report of the Department of Social Welfare. Pg. SW 1.

<sup>2</sup> 1985 South Dakota District Convention p. 117A.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. p. 117A.

51 others in various areas such as Elder Care, Dementia, Addictions, and Marriage  
52 challenges. The agreement was for a year at the cost of \$35,000. The agreement  
53 was renewed again in December 2020 for \$40,000.

54  
55 LFS has been leading workshops, counseling with individuals and families, and  
56 providing consulting services throughout the last two years. They are looking to  
57 expand their ministry in South Dakota by perhaps opening a counseling center in  
58 Sioux Falls or in other areas. They are also looking to partner with other  
59 neighboring districts to find ways to help with Mental Health and Marriage issues  
60 throughout our region.

61  
62 The question before us now is what form will this partnership take in the future and  
63 what will the cost be.

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65  
66 **WHEREAS,** Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, spent a significant portion of his ministry healing  
67 people with various illnesses, diseases, and conditions and he also described his  
68 people as those who care for people who are hungry, thirsty, sick or in prison  
69 (Matthew 25:31-40), AND

70  
71 **WHEREAS,** God's people in the South Dakota District have been involved in service to others  
72 who struggled with physical, emotional, and mental challenges throughout its  
73 history, AND

74  
75 **WHEREAS,** Lutheran Family Service (LFS), a Recognized Service Organization, owned by  
76 Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregations, mission is to "walk with people  
77 who are experiencing hard times and are there for them just as God has been  
78 there for us," AND

79  
80 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota District and Lutheran Family Service have had a partnership  
81 agreement in 2019 and 2020 for LFS to provide counseling services and training  
82 to pastors, church workers and lay people in South Dakota, AND

83  
84 **WHEREAS,** LFS and the South Dakota District are seeking ways to expand this service to  
85 others in the coming years both in South Dakota and throughout our geographic  
86 region, THEREFORE BE IT

87  
88 **RESOLVED:** That the current partnership be continued for the next triennium, AND BE IT  
89 FURTHER

90  
91 **RESOLVED:** That we will seek to expand this ministry by asking God to open our eyes to  
92 whatever other good works "which God has prepared in advance, that we should  
93 walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10), AND BE IT FURTHER

94  
95 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District will commit to LFS \$75,000 for 2022, \$75,000 for  
96 2023, and \$50,000 for 2024 to fund start-up costs and the operation of this ministry  
97 with the goal being that after that a good portion of the costs would be taken care  
98 of by fees for services and gifts from individuals and congregations, AND BE IT  
99 FURTHER

100  
101 **RESOLVED:** That half of the commitment, for 2022-2024, would come from gifts and bequests  
102 that the District has received over the years and the other half would come from  
103 the congregations of the South Dakota District, committing "an over and above"  
104 giving similar to our present "Together in Mission (TIM)" gifts, AND BE IT FINALLY

To the 62<sup>nd</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
December 5-7, 2021

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**RESOLVED:** That this partnership would be regularly evaluated by the District Board of Directors and that at the 2025 Convention of the District a long-term partnership would be discussed.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman

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Reverend Ray Greenseth

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DCE Hailey Jo Miller

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Mr. Terry Reck

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Mr. Erik Aker

- 1     **RESOLUTION: 2-02**  
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3     **SUBJECT:**     FOR THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT TO CONTINUE TOGETHER IN MISSION  
4                     AND TO ENCOURAGE DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS TO SUPPORT THE  
5                     TOGETHER IN MISSION PROJECT (Overture 2-02 and 2-03)  
6  
7     **Background:**  Since the 53<sup>rd</sup> Convention of The South Dakota District (1994), the District in  
8                     Convention has adopted resolutions to partner with missionaries in a variety of  
9                     mission fields. The initial District Convention resolution, Resolution 1-02 (1994),  
10                    resolved that the financial gifts given to Together In Mission by District  
11                    congregations were to be “over and above” each congregation’s regular offerings  
12                    for Synod and District mission support. Those missionaries or projects receiving  
13                    support from District congregations through Together In Mission since 1994 have  
14                    been:  
15
  - 16                    • Amy Kashenov serving in Kazakhstan (1994-2012)
  - 17                    • Global Seminary Initiative, seminaries in Tanzania, Africa and Novosibirsk,  
18                    Russia (2013-14)
  - 19                    • Rev. Dr. Alan Ludwig, instructor at Lutheran seminary in Novosibirsk, Russia  
20                    (2015-2018)
  - 21                    • Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, serving in Southeast Asia and Rev. David Warner,  
22                    serving in Spain (2018-2021)  
23                    Again, for the 2021 District Convention, convention delegates are asked to  
24                    consider renewing their congregation’s commitment to join with other  
25                    congregations in the South Dakota District to support mission efforts at home and  
26                    abroad.  
27  
28     **WHEREAS,**     It is our Lord’s desire to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10), and the Lord is not  
29                    willing for anyone to perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9),  
30                    and the Lord desires all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1  
31                    Timothy 2:4); AND  
32  
33     **WHEREAS,**     It is the Lord’s intention to use His Church to reach every “nation, tribe, language,  
34                    and people” (Revelation 7:9) through Word and Sacrament (Epitome, Formula of  
35                    Concord, Article XI.13); AND  
36  
37     **WHEREAS,**     Jesus bids His people to “lift up your eyes and see that the fields are white for  
38                    harvest” (John 4:35); AND  
39  
40     **WHEREAS,**     In Article 3.2, “Objectives,” of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)  
41                    Constitution it states that the Synod shall “strengthen congregations and their  
42                    members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the  
43                    Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world;”  
44                    AND  
45  
46     **WHEREAS,**     Continued support by District congregations of a Together In Mission project is  
47                    faithful to Christ’s desire for His Church and Synod’s stated objectives;  
48                    THEREFORE BE IT  
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50     **RESOLVED:**    That the District in convention express its thanks to God for blessing the mission  
51                    work of the last triennium’s (2018-2021) Together In Mission recipients: Rev. Dr.  
52                    Daniel Jastram, missionary to Southeast Asia and Rev. David Warner, missionary  
53                    to Spain; AND BE IT FURTHER  
54  
55     **RESOLVED:**    That the District congregations adopt Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, missionary to  
56                    Southeast Asia, and Rev. Dr. Cory Rajek, missionary to Eurasia, as the recipients

57 of the District's Together In Mission offerings, in equal measure, for the next  
58 triennium; AND BE IT FURTHER  
59

60 **RESOLVED:** Should either of these missionaries retire from active missionary service or return  
61 from the mission field, the balance of the Together In Mission offerings will go to  
62 the missionary remaining in the field. If both of these workers should retire or  
63 return from the mission field, The South Dakota District Board of Directors will  
64 determine a new missionary to support for the remainder of the triennium; AND BE  
65 IT FINALLY  
66

67 **RESOLVED:** That every congregation of The South Dakota District be encouraged to remember  
68 the work of missionaries Jastram and Rajek in their corporate and individual  
69 prayers and to provide an annual commitment to Together In Mission over and  
70 above their regular support of Synod and District missions.  
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72 Respectfully Submitted,  
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75 Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman  
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78 Reverend Ray Greenseth  
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81 DCE Hailey Jo Miller  
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84 Mr. Terry Reck  
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87 Mr. Erik Aker  
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1     **RESOLUTION: 2-04 Amended**

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3     **SUBJECT:**     TO CONSIDER STRUCTURES FOR THE SUPPORT OF WORKERS AND  
4                     MINISTRIES, CURRENTLY DONE VIA SERVICE AREAS

5

6     **WHEREAS,**     The structure of how The South Dakota District of the LCMS is to provide support  
7                     and ministry resources to church workers, congregations, and schools is not  
8                     mandated in either the Bylaws of the Synod or of the District; AND

9     **WHEREAS,**     The current Service Area system of providing support and ministry resources has  
10                    been in place in The South Dakota District since the 2006 District Convention (cf.  
11                    2006 Res. 1-34); AND

12    **WHEREAS,**     Such Service Areas were then defined as:

- 13                    1) Outreach Services (including the areas of Evangelism, Rural Ministry, and  
14                    World Missions);
- 15                    2) Parish Services (including the areas of Christian Education, Stewardship,  
16                    and Human Care);
- 17                    3) Young Adult and Youth Services (including the areas of Youth and  
18                    Campus Ministry); AND

19    **WHEREAS,**     While the Service Area structure has provided many blessings since its inception,  
20                    the types, sources, and delivery of ministry resources for church workers,  
21                    congregations, and schools has changed dramatically in this electronic age; AND

22    **WHEREAS,**     Today's culture is vastly different than it was only a short time ago; AND

23    **WHEREAS,**     The structures of providing support and ministry resources should be evaluated in  
24                    view of the current needs and priorities of our congregations and schools and of  
25                    our neighbors near and far, whom we are called to serve by our deeds of love and  
26                    by sharing the life-giving message of the Gospel; THEREFORE BE IT

27    **RESOLVED:**    That the Service Area structure be suspended for the 2022-2025 triennium; AND  
28                    BE IT FURTHER

29    **RESOLVED:**    That, in place of the Service Areas this triennium, the District President **and the**  
30                    **first Vice President** appoint a Mission and Ministry Council, by the end of March,  
31                    2022, accountable to ~~him~~ **them** and the District's Board of Directors and  
32                    supervised by the Executive Secretary. This Council shall be comprised of  
33                    representatives from every circuit in The South Dakota District, to:

- 34                    1) Identify the pressing human and spiritual needs of our neighbors,  
35                    especially that of hearing ~~and believing~~ the Gospel;
- 36                    2) Identify the pressing personal and ministry needs of LCMS church  
37                    workers and the needs and opportunities of LCMS congregations,  
38                    schools, and other ministries in South Dakota;
- 39                    3) Prioritize the needs and plan ways to address those needs and  
40                    opportunities in the 2022-2025 triennium;
- 41                    4) Make provision to implement vehicles to address needs and  
42                    opportunities (e.g., assigning ad hoc committees, conducting  
43                    workshops, producing resources); and

44 5) Consider possible structures to provide support and ministry  
45 resources to church workers and congregations, schools, and  
46 other ministries beyond 2025; AND BE IT FURTHER

47 **RESOLVED:** That the funding of the activities of the Mission and Ministry Council comes from  
48 monies already budgeted for the work of the Service Areas in 2022, and that a  
49 commensurate amount of money be available for the activities of the Council in  
50 2023, 2024, and 2025; AND BE IT FURTHER

51 **RESOLVED:** That the Mission and Ministry Council bring a recommendation for the District's  
52 ongoing structure in providing support and ministry resources to the District's  
53 Board of Directors by the time of the Board's March 2024 meeting; AND BE IT  
54 FINALLY

55 **RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors of The South Dakota District bring a plan for such a  
56 structure to the 2025 Convention of the District.

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58 Respectfully Submitted,

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Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman

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Reverend Ray Greenseth

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DCE Hailey Jo Miller

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Mr. Terry Reck

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Mr. Erik Aker

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To the 62<sup>nd</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
December 5-7, 2021

1     **RESOLUTION: 2-05**

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3     **SUBJECT:**     TO THANK GOD FOR THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES OF THE  
4                     SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT AND TO ENCOURAGE THEIR CONTINUED  
5                     SUPPORT

6

7     **WHEREAS,**     The theme for the Sixty-Second Convention of The South Dakota District of The  
8                     Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is “Rooted in Christ, Abounding in  
9                     Thanksgiving;” AND

10

11    **WHEREAS,**     The Apostle Paul reported to the Colossian Christians that they thanked God for  
12                     their faith in Christ Jesus and their love for all the saints (Col. 1:3-4) and later Paul  
13                     exhorts the Colossians to remain rooted and built up in Christ and to abound in  
14                     thanksgiving (Col. 2:6-7); AND

15

16    **WHEREAS,**     The congregations of The South Dakota District are rooted in the true Gospel of  
17                     Jesus Christ and abound in thanksgiving to God for His generous and gracious  
18                     favor, which is shown through the life, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension  
19                     of His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord; AND

20

21    **WHEREAS,**     “Committed to a common confession and mission, congregations of The Lutheran  
22                     Church—Missouri Synod join with one another in the Synod to support one another  
23                     and to work together in carrying out their commonly adopted objectives” (LCMS  
24                     2019 Handbook, Bylaw 1.1.1); AND

25

26    **WHEREAS,**     Through discussion and collaboration at District Planning Conferences, through  
27                     action at District Conventions, and through action and implementation of the Board  
28                     of Directors of The South Dakota District on behalf of the congregations of the  
29                     District, the congregations of The South Dakota District have agreed to work  
30                     together to undertake and support various mission and ministry endeavors,  
31                     including the following (numbers from the 2021 District Work Program):

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- 33                     • Support of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (\$330,000)
- 34                     • Mission Work with Native Americans—Rosebud (\$133,165)
- 35                     • Mission Work with Native Americans—Pine Ridge (\$27,587)
- 36                     • Mission Work with the Deaf—(\$53,881)
- 37                     • New Mission Starts, Outreach Service Area, Administration  
38                     (\$173,558)
- 39                     • University Student Ministry Support (\$28,000)
- 40                     • Preparing Church Workers—Education Assistance (\$117,000); AND

41

42    **WHEREAS,**     Each of these mission and ministry endeavors is being used by God to carry out  
43                     the mission of Christ and His Church to seek and to save the lost (cf. Luke 19:10);  
44                     AND

45

46    **WHEREAS,**     Support of the mission and ministry endeavors listed above is in addition to support  
47                     for direct services to congregations that totals \$471,500, which supports Lutheran  
48                     Witness subscriptions, Service Areas, Sioux Falls Hospital Chaplain, and  
49                     conferences and conventions and for District administration (\$454,439); AND

50

51    **WHEREAS,**     The 2006 South Dakota District Convention Resolution 2-06 (adopted without  
52                     dissenting vote) resolved “That the congregations of The South Dakota District be  
53                     encouraged to consider an annual increase in their pledges to the Work Program  
54                     of The South Dakota District equal to the annual cost of living increase;” AND

55

56    **WHEREAS,**     The South Dakota District Board of Directors creates the Work Program planning  
                      on \$1 million in mission receipts from district congregations and the congregations



To the 62<sup>nd</sup> Convention of  
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57 have been generous in their offerings to The South Dakota District and their giving  
58 to the Lord in the last triennium equaled:

- 59  
60 • 2018: \$1,059,380  
61 • 2019: \$1,092,784  
62 • 2020: \$1,071,266; AND

63  
64 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota District Board of Directors thanks God and thanks the district  
65 congregations for their generous offerings and support of The South Dakota  
66 District Work Program; THEREFORE BE IT

67  
68 **RESOLVED:** That every congregation of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—  
69 Missouri Synod be encouraged to thank God for the generosity of our district  
70 congregations, thank God for the mission and ministry opportunities that He has  
71 provided us to accomplish together, and ask God to provide more opportunities to  
72 proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in South Dakota; AND BE IT FURTHER

73  
74 **RESOLVED:** That every district congregation be encouraged to continue supporting the District  
75 Work Program by prayer and by generous gifts that come from faithful stewardship;  
76 AND BE IT FINALLY

77  
78 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations of The South Dakota District be encouraged to prayerfully  
79 and intentionally set as a priority an annual increase in their mission giving for the  
80 District Work Program equal to the annual cost of living increase or in an amount  
81 that is commensurate with their congregation's financial situation and that  
82 practices faithful stewardship of God's generous gifts.

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84 Respectfully Submitted,

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88 Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman

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91 Reverend Ray Greenseth

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94 DCE Hailey Jo Miller

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97 Mr. Terry Reck

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100 Mr. Erik Aker

- 1     **RESOLUTION: 2-06**  
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3     **SUBJECT:**     TO ENCOURAGE CHURCH WORKER WELLNESS  
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5     **WHEREAS,**     Our gracious God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—calls and utilizes sinful, but  
6                     baptized and redeemed people to serve Him as ordained and commissioned  
7                     ministers within His Church; AND  
8  
9     **WHEREAS,**     Ordained and commissioned ministers find much joy and satisfaction in serving  
10                    the Lord Jesus Christ in His Church, however they can also experience difficult  
11                    times of disappointment, loneliness, and frustration; AND  
12  
13    **WHEREAS,**     A 2017 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Church Worker Wellness Survey  
14                    revealed that some professional church workers struggle in a variety of areas in  
15                    their personal and professional lives  
16
  - 17                    • 40% question whether their work has any real impact.
  - 18                    • 32% admit that the busyness of life gets in the way of their relationship  
19                    with God.
  - 20                    • 55% have experienced stress from financial concerns.
  - 21                    • 75% have a body mass index considered overweight or obese.
  - 22                    • 26% have experienced serious marital difficulties while in ministry.
  - 23                    • 24% have been told by a professional that they suffer from anxiety and  
24                    depression; AND  
25    **WHEREAS,**     Ordained and commissioned ministers have an obligation to maintain their  
26                    spiritual, emotional, relational, financial, and physical wellness so that they do not  
27                    provide the devil any opportunity to sabotage their ministry, but rather can  
28                    effectively serve the Lord to the best of their God-given abilities; AND  
29  
30    **WHEREAS,**     Congregations, Lutheran schools, and other places of ministry also have the  
31                    responsibility of caring for the needs of their professional church workers and to  
32                    provide them with help and support to assist them in maintaining a healthy, well-  
33                    balanced life; THEREFORE BE IT  
34  
35    **RESOLVED:**     That ordained and commissioned ministers take their spiritual, emotional,  
36                    relational, financial, vocational, and physical wellness seriously and be  
37                    encouraged to seek out help, support, and encouragement when they need it; AND  
38                    BE IT FURTHER  
39  
40    **RESOLVED:**     Congregations, Lutheran schools, and other ministries are encouraged to be  
41                    proactive and delight in caring for their ordained and commissioned ministers, and  
42                    are also encouraged to be mindful and vigilant to their professional church worker's  
43                    wellness and needs; AND BE IT FURTHER  
44  
45    **RESOLVED:**     Ordained and commissioned ministers, congregations, and Lutheran schools are  
46                    strongly encouraged to become familiar with and utilize the various tools and  
47                    supports at their disposal to restore, maintain, and increase their spiritual,  
48                    emotional, relational, financial, vocational, and physical wellness. A list of tools  
49                    and supports for all areas of wellness can be found at [www.lcms.org/wellness](http://www.lcms.org/wellness) and  
50                    includes but is not limited to:  
51  
52                    *Spiritual:* Regular times of Scripture reading and prayer, faithful participation in  
53                    worship and the Means of Grace  
54                    *Emotional and Vocational Wellness:* Employee Assistance Program available  
55                    through the Concordia Health Plan, Pastoral Support Network, PALS, Doxology,  
56                    Lutheran Family Service of Iowa and Grace Place Wellness Ministries

57                    *Financial Wellness:* Concordia Plan Services, Lutheran Church Extension Fund,  
58                    Lutheran Federal Credit Union  
59                    *Physical Wellness:* Concordia Plan Services, Vitality  
60                    *Relational Wellness:* Ambassadors of Reconciliation; AND BE IT FINALLY  
61

62     **RESOLVED:**    That ordained and commissioned ministers, congregations, and Lutheran schools  
63                    thank God for the many and various ways that the Lord takes care of His people  
64                    and provides for all of their needs of body and soul and praise the Lord as David  
65                    does in Psalm 103:1-5, “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless  
66                    His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who  
67                    forgives all your iniquity, who heals all of your diseases, who redeems your life  
68                    from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with  
69                    good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”

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71                    Respectfully Submitted,

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74                    Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman

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77                    Reverend Ray Greenseth

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80                    DCE Hailey Jo Miller

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83                    Mr. Terry Reck

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86                    Mr. Erik Aker  
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To the 62<sup>nd</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod  
December 5-7, 2021

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Guiding in love and truth  
Through devious way;  
Christ our triumphant king,  
We come Your name to sing  
And here our children bring  
To join Your praise.

So now, and till we die,  
Sound we Your praises high  
And joyful sing:  
Infants and all the throng,  
Who to the Church belong,  
Unite to swell the song  
To Christ, our King!

Respectfully Submitted,

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Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman

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Reverend Ray Greenseth

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DCE Hailey Jo Miller

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Mr. Terry Reck

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Mr. Erik Aker

- 1     **RESOLUTION: 2-08**  
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- 3     **SUBJECT:**     TO ENCOURAGE THE RECRUITMENT OF CHURCH WORKERS IN DISTRICT  
4                     CONGREGATIONS AND SCHOOLS  
5
- 6     **WHEREAS,**     Jesus instituted and mandated the pastoral office (John 20:21) and St. Paul and  
7                     St. Peter expound on the Lord’s institution of the pastoral office (Romans 10:14-  
8                     17; 1 Corinthians 4:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-  
9                     11); AND  
10
- 11    **WHEREAS,**     The Lutheran Church confesses concerning the pastoral office, “Concerning  
12                     church government it is taught that no one should publicly teach, preach, or  
13                     administer the sacraments without a proper [public] call” (Augsburg Confession,  
14                     Article XIV; The Book of Concord; Kolb/Wengert; pg.46); AND  
15
- 16    **WHEREAS,**     There is only one pastoral office that has been established and commanded by  
17                     God, but often the pastor does not serve alone. The Church, to assist the pastor  
18                     in ministry, has established various auxiliary offices, which are “established in love  
19                     by the Church to support the Office of the Holy Ministry and to assist the faithful in  
20                     their God-given vocations” (LSB Agenda, pgs. 214, 218); AND  
21
- 22    **WHEREAS,**     Enrollment statistics from 2004 to 2018 demonstrate a decrease in students  
23                     enrolled in our Concordia University church worker programs:  
24
- 25                     • Pre-Seminary (-59%)  
26                     • Lutheran Teacher (-61%)  
27                     • Director of Christian Education (-71%)  
28                     • Deaconess (-43%)  
29                     • Lay Ministry (-95%)  
30                     • Director of Parish Music (-47%)  
31                     • Director of Family Life (-65%) AND  
32
- 33    **WHEREAS,**     Enrollment statistics from 2004 to 2018 demonstrate a decrease in men enrolled  
34                     in our two seminaries:  
35
- 36                     • Master of Divinity (MDiv) Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL) (-61%);  
37                     Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne (CTSFW) (-44%)  
38                     • Combined MDiv loss (-55%)  
39                     • CSL total loss including Alternate Route (AR) and non-residential  
40                     enrollments (-34%)  
41                     • CTSFW total loss including AR and non-residential enrollments (-44%)  
42                     • Combined total loss including AR and non-residential enrollments (-38%)  
43                     (Source: 2019 LCMS Convention Resolution 6-01) AND  
44
- 45    **WHEREAS,**     The number of students going into professional church work from South Dakota  
46                     who receive tuition assistance from the district has remained steady, with a total  
47                     of 9-13 professional church work students per year receiving student aid from  
48                     2012-2020); AND  
49
- 50    **WHEREAS,**     Fifty percent (50%) of all active ordained pastors are over 55 years old; and with  
51                     current enrollment trends into the seminary and active pastor retirement trends,  
52                     the active pastor population in the LCMS could decrease from 6,000 to 3,000  
53                     active pastors in the next 15 years; AND  
54
- 55    **WHEREAS,**     The current enrollments will not support graduating classes sufficient to meet the  
56                     needs of the Church in terms of filling upcoming vacancies for ordained and  
57                     commissioned ministers of religion; THEREFORE BE IT

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- RESOLVED:** That congregations, schools, all professional church workers, and laypeople of the district be encouraged to earnestly petition the Lord of the harvest in corporate and individual prayer to send out laborers into His harvest field as Jesus bids His disciples to do (Luke 10:2); AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED:** That district congregations and schools be encouraged to instill in their people that church worker vocations are a sacred and joyful vocation, a vocation to which God, through His Church, calls those who have been properly trained and equipped; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED:** That district congregations, schools, and laypeople be encouraged to remain steadfast in their love, support, encouragement, and care for their professional church workers, understanding that a spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically healthy church worker can be a great influence on the next generation of church workers; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED:** That district congregations, schools, and laypeople be encouraged to identify, inspire, and support young people to consider church worker vocations and creatively discover ways to highlight and lift up the importance of church worker vocations for the ongoing life and ministry of the Church; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED:** That district congregations be encouraged to use the electronic resources produced by the Synod’s Church Worker Recruitment Initiative (2019 Synod Res. 6-01), AND BE IT FINALLY
- RESOLVED:** That district congregations, schools, professional church workers, and laypeople be encouraged to give an offering to the South Dakota District’s Student Aid Fund to provide ongoing financial support to students from South Dakota who are studying for professional church work vocations and preparing for service in the Lord’s Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman

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Reverend Ray Greenseth

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DCE Hailey Jo Miller

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Mr. Terry Reck

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Mr. Erik Aker





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Reverend Ray Greenseth

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DCE Hailey Jo Miller

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Mr. Terry Reck

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Mr. Erik Aker

- 1     **RESOLUTION: 2-10 Amended**  
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- 3     **SUBJECT:**     TO ENCOURAGE THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD’S MISSION  
4                     AND MINISTRY EMPHASIS OF *MAKING DISCIPLES FOR LIFE*  
5
- 6     **WHEREAS,**     No person, because of original sin, can choose or decide to become a disciple of  
7                     Jesus on their own (John 15:16; Romans 8:7; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9;  
8                     Augsburg Confession, Article II, Kolb/Wengert, pg.36, 38; Apology, Article II.3,  
9                     Kolb/Wengert, pg. 112; Apology, Article IV. 17-18; 53-56, Kolb/Wengert, pg.122-  
10                    123, 128-129); AND  
11
- 12    **WHEREAS,**     Jesus alone, through the Holy Spirit, graciously calls and invites each person to  
13                     become a disciple of His through God’s Word and the sacraments of Holy Baptism  
14                     and the Lord’s Supper (John 14:6; Romans 6:1-4; Romans 10:17; Luther’s *Large*  
15                     *Catechism*, “The Third Article,” Kolb/Wengert, pg. 437-439); AND  
16
- 17    **WHEREAS,**     Being a disciple of Jesus is not merely the doing of personal spiritual practices  
18                     such as prayer, daily reading of Scripture, or fasting, but is the conforming of a  
19                     person’s whole life, public and private, to the image of Jesus Christ and Him  
20                     crucified (Mark 8:34-38; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; Hebrews 12:2); AND  
21
- 22    **WHEREAS,**     Jesus has given the task and duty of making disciples to His Church as He has  
23                     said in Matthew 28:18-20, “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in  
24                     heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of  
25                     all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the  
26                     Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold,  
27                     I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” And as LCMS Synod President  
28                     Harrison has written in “*A Theological Statement for Mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*,”  
29                     “Bearing witness to the saving good news of God for us in Jesus is the fundamental  
30                     task of the church (Matthew 28:19). This leads to the making of disciples.” (*Journal*  
31                     *of Lutheran Mission*, September, 2016, Volume 3, No.2, pg. 62-73); AND  
32
- 33    **WHEREAS,**     The theme of *Making Disciples for Life* encompasses two areas:  
34                     1. Strengthening the faith of those who are already disciples of Jesus and  
35                     building up the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 3:12-17; 1  
36                     Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:24-25; Jude 20-23).  
37                     2. Inviting unbelievers and those who have fallen away from Christ to  
38                     become disciples of the Lord Jesus (Isaiah 52:7; Mark 16:15-16; Luke  
39                     24:45-48; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:13-17); AND  
40
- 41    **WHEREAS,**     Our commitment to one another as LCMS congregations, professional church  
42                     workers, and laity is to walk together with the Word of God as our only norm and  
43                     guide for doctrine and practice; AND  
44
- 45    **WHEREAS,**     The LCMS Constitution and Bylaws give primary responsibility for church planting  
46                     and national mission to districts and congregations, and the national Synod has  
47                     the responsibility of providing resources to aid these efforts (LCMS Constitution  
48                     Article 3.2 and 3.6); THEREFORE BE IT  
49
- 50    **RESOLVED:**    That the district, congregations, and schools be encouraged to explore  
51                     opportunities in their communities and contexts for *Making Disciples for Life* which  
52                     would include, but not be limited to:  
53                     • Evangelize and disciple the lost  
54                     • *Evangelize and* retain the faithful, deepen their faith, and build up the Body  
55                     of Christ  
56                     • Strengthen and or revitalize congregations and schools  
57                     • Plant new congregations and schools wherever possible

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- Perform acts of mercy or service in their local communities
- Support and promote district mission activities and efforts
- Support and promote international mission activities; AND BE IT FURTHER

**RESOLVED:** That district congregations and schools be encouraged to make use of the Synod's *Making Disciples for Life* resources and tools as these become available and can be found online at <https://makingdisciples.lcms.org/>; AND BE IT FINALLY

**RESOLVED:** That district congregations and schools be encouraged to make use of other resources developed by the LCMS Office of National Mission (e.g. Mission Field: USA for church planting; Re: Vitality for church revitalization; Everyone His Witness for evangelism and outreach; Rural and Small Town Mission for congregations in rural and small towns), and the LCMS Office of International Mission, and Concordia Publishing House.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman

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Reverend Ray Greenseth

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DCE Hailey Jo Miller

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Mr. Terry Reck

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Mr. Erik Aker

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-11**

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3 **SUBJECT:** CARING FOR GOD'S LIVING EARTH (IN RESPONSE TO CHRIST'S LOVE  
4 INSTEAD OF FEAR)

5  
6 **WHEREAS,** Jesus as the Agent of Creation created the universe out of nothing, solely by His  
7 almighty Word, and continues to preserve it and holds every atom together (Col  
8 1:15-17, Heb 1:2-3, 11:3); AND

9  
10 **WHEREAS,** And we know that for those who love God all things works together for good for  
11 those who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28) AND

12  
13 **WHEREAS,** The last day of history and this earth has already been set by our heavenly Father  
14 (Mark 13:32, Acts 1:7) and no matter what mankind may or may not do, history  
15 and this earth will not end one single second before that time and day set by God  
16 when our Lord Jesus, the Lord of the universe, shall return in glory with His holy  
17 angels to close the curtain on this fallen world and usher in the new heaven and  
18 new earth where His elect saints shall live forever in glorified resurrected bodies (1  
19 Peter 3:1-13; Rev 21) AND

20  
21 **WHEREAS,** Concerning this earth, God has promised "While the earth remains, seedtime and  
22 harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease" (Gen  
23 8:22) AND

24  
25 **WHEREAS,** In His created order God gave humanity dominion over the earth as stewards, to  
26 work it and take care of it (Gen 1:26, 2:15): THEREFORE BE IT

27  
28 **RESOLVED:** That the SD District in convention remind the saints of our congregations that the  
29 love of Christ would move us to be the best stewards of this earth as we can be as  
30 we care for the water, air, and soil God has given to us as a gift, AND BE IT  
31 FURTHER

32  
33 **RESOLVED:** That the saints of God be encouraged to read and study the 2010 CTCR Report,  
34 *Together With All Creatures: Caring for God's Living Earth*, AND BE IT FINALLY

35  
36 **RESOLVED:** That in the face of all changes, climatic and otherwise, on this tired old earth  
37 increasingly burdened by the weight of Adam's sin, we celebrate the glorious news  
38 of a coming restoration of this broken planet and that the new heaven and new  
39 earth will be even better than Eden before the fall, in part, because we will never  
40 again be tempted to sin!

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43 Respectfully Submitted,

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46 Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman

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49 Reverend Ray Greenseth

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52 DCE Hailey Jo Miller  
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Mr. Terry Reck

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Mr. Erik Aker



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**RESOLUTION: 2-13 Amended**

**SUBJECT:** TO DECLARE ALL GODLY WORK IS A HOLY CALLING (VOCATION) AND TO  
DECLARE WORD AND SACRAMENT MINISTRY AS NECESSARY, CRITICAL,  
AND INDISPENSABLE

**WHEREAS,** Due to the Covid-19 crisis, the unfortunate and unclear language of “essential”  
versus “~~unessential~~” “nonessential” workers came into our public forum serving  
as a subjective and arbitrary way of devaluing countless vocational callings by  
declaring them “~~unessential~~” “nonessential” and ushering into our public  
discourse many unintended and destructive consequences for both Church and  
society; AND

**WHEREAS,** This “essential” versus “~~unessential~~” “nonessential” language made its way into  
our churches, causing division regarding certain vocations and the gathering  
together of the Church for Word and Sacrament. AND

**WHEREAS,** In times of fear, sickness, and death the proclamation of the Holy Gospel of  
Jesus Christ and the administration of the holy Sacraments are of utmost  
importance, for only in Christ given to us in Word and Sacrament do we know  
that God has not abandoned us to death but fills us with eternal hope in the midst  
of a hopeless world and the promise of eternal life in glory to comfort us when the  
threat of temporal death presses hard; THEREFORE BE IT

~~**RESOLVED:** That the saints of God be encouraged to give thanks to God and regard as  
necessary, critical, and indispensable the vocational calling of all people and  
Word and Sacrament ministry; AND BE IT FURTHER~~

**RESOLVED:** That the saints of God be encouraged to give thanks to God for the vocational  
calling of all people and regard the work to which God has called each person,  
no matter how humble it may seem, as holy in His sight and essential to the care  
of creation and humanity; AND BE IT FURTHER

**RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District in convention thank all of our pastors, church  
workers, and congregations that continued ~~as best they could,~~ and according to  
our Confessions, the faithful preaching of the holy Word and administration of the  
blessed Sacraments, AND BE IT FINALLY

**RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District in convention request that the District President  
assign a committee to develop a Bible study concerning the content of this  
resolution for use in the District and made available throughout the Synod.

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman

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Reverend Ray Greenseth

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DCE Hailey Jo Miller

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Mr. Terry Reck

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Mr. Erik Aker