

WHEREAS, There has been a rise in the abuse of women and children on many reservations, resulting in homelessness, health issues, suffering, and in some cases even death (cf. “Tiny Little Laws” by Kathy Dobie in *Harpers Magazine*, February 2011); and

WHEREAS, American Indians are a people in great need of the Gospel; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod’s Board for National Mission analyze all work done on Indian reservations across the United States and Canada and give recommendations as to the most effective means of mission and ministry to the American Indian population.

North Dakota District

1-13

To Encourage Captioning of All Video Materials

WHEREAS, The LCMS, its districts, and Concordia Publishing House (CPH) make frequent and excellent use of video media in communications and study resources; and

WHEREAS, A significant portion of the LCMS is deaf, lately deafened (including the aged, who may have diminished capacity to hear), or hard of hearing, leading them to struggle to use or ignore these communications and resources; and

WHEREAS, This portion of the LCMS would benefit from captioned video resources and communications, thereby increasing the effectiveness or use of said communications and resources; and

WHEREAS, The video resources provided by the LCMS, its districts, and CPH are seldom captioned; and

WHEREAS, Adding captioning after the video materials are released is cost prohibitive and frequently degrades the video quality of the resources; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS, its districts, and CPH be encouraged to provide all of their video materials with captioning included, not only for the deaf community, but also for the lately deafened and hard of hearing.

Jacksonville Circuit
Central Illinois District

1-14

To Include Campus Ministry as Mission and Ministry Emphasis

WHEREAS, Our Synod President, Rev. Matthew Harrison, wrote in his Pastoral Letter Regarding Campus Ministry (Oct. 13, 2011), “The church is losing her young people. This is a concern we all share. While some fall away during high school, by far the greatest losses occur during the college years. Our young adults are bombarded by a secular worldview that is antagonistic to their Christian faith. College campuses have become a place where the truth of God’s Word is mocked, the divinity of Christ is questioned, and the church is scorned”; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Harrison continues, “Now is the time to renew our efforts. While many have faithfully labored in campus ministry, they have not always received our support. The Synod simply cannot afford to sit on the sideline while faithful campus congregations are being closed. College students need Word and Sacrament ministry. They need faithful pastors and workers who will care, teach, and prepare them for life in, but not of, the world. In short, they need Jesus ... this is not a time for us to abandon campus ministry but the

time to more fully embrace and expand it. Please continue to support all the campus ministries throughout the Synod”; and

WHEREAS, Our Rocky Mountain District has only one dedicated, full-time campus ministry (University Lutheran Chapel—Boulder, serving our students at the University of Colorado, Boulder); and

WHEREAS, University Lutheran Chapel—Boulder serves our students by proclaiming the truth of God’s Word and administering His Sacraments rightly; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Rocky Mountain District board of directors and praesidium be encouraged to continue to support University Lutheran Chapel; and be it further

Resolved, That the board of directors and praesidium be encouraged to find ways to encourage and support campus ministries at the other universities and colleges in our district both through the work of our congregations that are in close proximity to those places and through the work of the Rocky Mountain District at large; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Rocky Mountain District present an overture to the next convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to include campus ministry as one of the chief mission and ministry emphases for the next triennium of the Synod.

Rocky Mountain District

1-15

To Commend and Support Campus Ministry at University of Minnesota

WHEREAS, Our forebears in the faith built strategically located chapels to conduct Word and Sacrament ministry at major college campuses across our country and to promote Lutheran Christian evangelism among students and community members; and

WHEREAS, Ministries at these chapels are a refuge and a help to Lutheran and other Christian college students, many of whom are away from home for the first time, and to others who are brought to faith in our gracious God in that context; and

WHEREAS, These ministries serve students from all over the country and from international locations as well, and thus their ministries are a service to the Synod at large and indeed to the Church as a whole; and

WHEREAS, One such active congregation, University Lutheran Chapel in Minneapolis, MN, serves one of the biggest public universities in the country, provides a vibrant town/gown ministry, has been the source of dozens of pastoral and diaconal students for service in our Synod, and has provided leadership in theological studies that have been helpful to many other congregations; and

WHEREAS, This faithful congregation’s strategically located campus church home was sold by the Minnesota South District’s board of directors for demolition by a developer who paid \$3,250,000 for it; and

WHEREAS, The congregation was left without a church building; and

WHEREAS, Although the Minnesota South District board of directors did not provide any funds for the continuation of this congregation, the Minnesota South District in convention granted the congregation part of the proceeds (\$2,000,000) from the final sale price of \$3,250,000; and

WHEREAS, On-campus property is extremely expensive, but campus ministry effectiveness is immeasurably assisted by the presence of such a church location; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS thank the congregation and pastor of University Lutheran Chapel—Minneapolis for their service to our students and to the broader Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS grant this congregation \$1,250,000 to assist them in building a replacement campus chapel and to more justly compensate them for their loss; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS express our sincere thanks to God and to all of the campus congregations and pastors of the Synod for their service to the Church and particularly for their service to students who are blessed to attend universities that have them; and be it finally

Resolved, That the LCMS encourage the title holders of existing campus ministry chapels to regard these properties as sacred trusts on behalf of the Church at large and to retain them for posterity to the glory of God.

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
San Jose, CA

1-16

To Commend and Support Ministry of Lutherans in Africa

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ has commanded His church to “[go] therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:19–20); and

WHEREAS, An overwhelming need exists among Lutheran pastors, evangelists, and deaconesses throughout Africa for basic doctrinal teaching that agrees “with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness” (1 Tim. 6:3); and

WHEREAS, Lutherans in Africa was founded in 2010 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization by the Rev. James May, a rostered LCMS pastor and former missionary in French West Africa, to form African Christians to be teachers of the faith; and

WHEREAS, Lutherans in Africa currently works in 20 African countries, teaching confessional Lutheran doctrine and training African pastors to be the teachers in their own communities; and

WHEREAS, Lutherans in Africa works in conjunction with Lutheran Heritage Foundation—Africa to translate, publish, and distribute confessional Lutheran resources; and

WHEREAS, Lutherans in Africa desires to expand its ministry to additional “tribes and peoples and languages” (Rev. 7:9) on the African continent; therefore be it

Resolved, That the 2013 LCMS convention give thanks to the triune God for the faithful ministry of Lutherans in Africa; and be it further

Resolved, That the 2013 LCMS convention commend Lutherans in Africa for its faithful mission work on the African continent; and be it finally

Resolved, That the 2013 LCMS convention encourage the Synod’s congregations, pastors, and laity to support Lutherans in Africa through their prayers and financial offerings.

Divine Shepherd
Bolingbrook, IL

1-17

To Endorse Work of Luther Institute of Southeast Asia (LISA)

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ has commissioned His followers to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19); and

WHEREAS, He has equipped and empowered them with His unfailing presence and life-giving Spirit (Matt. 28:20; Luke 24:48ff.; Acts 1:8); and

WHEREAS, The Lord has opened a door to bring the Good News of salvation to the peoples of Southeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, The emerging churches in Thailand (The Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church [TCLC]) and Cambodia (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cambodia [ELCC]) desire theological education to equip leaders to assist them in going through this opened door; and

WHEREAS, A theological education program, LISA, has been initiated to respond to this opportunity; and

WHEREAS, LISA is committed to theological education that is solidly grounded in the Holy Scriptures, clearly centered in our Lord Jesus Christ, in keeping with our evangelical Lutheran convictions, designed to equip its students for effective ministry that is faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ, and responsive to the needs of the people there; and

WHEREAS, LISA is governed by a board of directors that is representative of various entities involved in the work in Southeast Asia, including the Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cambodia, Lutheran Church—Canada, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Garuna Foundation, and the Lutheran Heritage Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Opportunities to expand the work of LISA to people groups beyond the Thais and Cambodians, such as the Laotians, Burmese, Hmong, and Vietnamese, are being explored and pursued as the Lord enables; and

WHEREAS, This important endeavor for forming leaders to build up the Church and to share the Good News more widely is in need of our prayers, encouragement, and financial support; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod renew its commitment to the Lord’s work in Southeast Asia and encourage its districts, congregations, and individuals to support the work of LISA through their prayers, encouragement, and financial support; and be it further

Resolved, That representatives of the LISA program be welcomed into our congregations to tell the story of the Lord’s work there, that God’s people here may be informed of its progress and learn how they can help spread His Word on its forward way; and be it finally

Resolved, That we conclude the consideration of this resolution with prayer, in keeping with our Lord’s admonition in Matthew 9:37–38, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

Florida-Georgia District