

**RESOLUTION: 1-01a**

**TO ALLOW MINISTERS OF RELIGION – COMMISSIONED TO SERVE AS DELEGATES AT CONVENTIONS**

WHEREAS, God has called His people to be workers in His kingdom as Ministers of Religion – Commissioned (Teachers, Directors of Christian Education, Family Life Ministers, etc.); and

WHEREAS, Ministers of Religion - Commissioned are looked upon to provide leadership in many schools, congregations, and agencies of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, there has been a long tradition of service from such Ministers of Religion - Commissioned; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Handbook does not allow such individuals to serve as voting delegates at either District or Synod Conventions; and

WHEREAS, Ministers of Religion - Commissioned are allowed to be advisory delegates, to the ratio of one Ministers of Religion - Commissioned per sixty (60) rostered Ministers of Religion - Commissioned in each district, at Synod Conventions (2007 Synod Handbook 3.1.3.1); and

WHEREAS, We, the members of the Northwest District, consider this voting privilege to be a high priority because of the ministry of the Ministers of Religion – Commissioned and the issue of equity, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Northwest District in convention urge the Synod in Convention and the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance to provide Commissioned Ministers an opportunity to serve as voting delegates in convention. (Ref. overture 1-05).

**Adopted**      **Yes – 224 No - 106**

**RESOLUTION: 1-02a**

**TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE ON SYNOD  
STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE**

WHEREAS, the Gospel is God's precious gift to His people, and sharing this Gospel effectively with the people He loves must be the church's top priority; and

WHEREAS, the Gospel message is unchanging, yet the world in which we live is rapidly changing and requires the organization of the church to adopt practices and structures that enhance the Gospel's proclamation; and,

WHEREAS, the present polity of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has contributed to strife and a party spirit and inhibits the Gospel witness; and,

WHEREAS, the President's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance has been working with Synod and District leaders to design changes that better support the mission and ministry of the Gospel; and,

WHEREAS, the Northwest District appreciates that the Task Force has been posting its work on Synod's website so Synod is kept actively advised of its work, so that this important report can be available for maximum review and critique throughout the Synod prior to the convention; and be it

RESOLVED, that the Northwest District in convention call upon the people of the Northwest District to be involved in prayer for this important effort; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Northwest District in convention support the efforts of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance.

**Adopted**      **Yes – 227 No - 36**

**RESOLUTION: 1-03a**

**TO RETAIN LICENSED DEACON PROGRAM**

(Resolution 1-03 and 2-04 – *Suggested combination.*)

WHEREAS, small congregations and preaching stations in Alaska and other parts of the Northwest District have been wonderfully blessed through the Word and Sacrament ministries of Licensed Deacons; and

WHEREAS, The Northwest District has over 47 congregations with an average of 50 members or less attending church; and

WHEREAS, the licensed Deacon Program removes some barriers of time, distance and expense to service in these small and remote congregations; and

WHEREAS, utilization of trained Licensed Deacons is an effective way to do ministry in small and isolate areas as well as in various congregational ministries; and

WHEREAS, the present Leadership Advancement Process (LAP) program of the Northwest District continues to provide theological education relevant to congregations and preaching stations in the District and for training Licensed Deacons to serve in these settings, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Northwest District congregations, agencies, organizations and ministries recruit and enable faithful laity to enter the Northwest District lay ministry training program, known as the Leadership Advancement Process – LAP; and be it further

RESOLVED, that LAP graduates continue to be utilized by the Northwest District congregations; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Northwest District in convention memorialize the Synod at its 2010 convention to retain the use of Licensed Deacons in ministry.

**Adopted**      **Yes – 224 No - 32**

**RESOLUTION 1-05a**

**TO REALIGN ALASKA INTO TWO CIRCUITS**

WHEREAS, the 2007 Handbook of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) stipulates “An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be determined by each district on the basis of the following requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations involving an aggregate communicant membership from 1,500 to 10,000.” (By-law 3.1.2 (a) p. 90; and

WHEREAS, the 2004 Handbook of the LCMS also describes a visitation circuit as “...7 to 20 congregations involving an aggregate communicant membership from 1,500 to 10,000.” (By-law 5.1.1, p. 194); and

WHEREAS, since 1994 five new congregations have been planted in Alaska and received into membership in the Northwest District of the LCMS so that there are now 14 congregations and so that there has been sufficient communicant membership to form two circuits in Alaska (not including the many mission sites of the Alaska Mission for Christ); and

WHEREAS, the size of Alaska, the distance between congregations, and the large area for ministry can be a difficult job for one circuit counselor; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Circuit 25 of the Northwest District, LCMS, the Alaska Circuit, be divided into two visitation circuits for the purpose of working together in the Lord’s Kingdom and as member congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, subject to the approval of the President of the Synod under Bylaw 5.1.1 (b).

**Adopted**      **Yes – 253 No - 5**

## 2009 Northwest District Convention Adopted Resolutions

### **RESOLUTION: 2-01a**

#### **TO CONTINUE TRACKING THE SPIRIT AS AN EFFECTIVE MOVEMENT OF OUTREACH FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

- WHEREAS, Luke 5:1-11, Matthew 4:18-22, Matthew 28:16-20, and Luke 19:10 provide the church with a Biblical basis for outreach to lost people; and
- WHEREAS, Acts 16:15, Acts 2:46, Acts 20:20, Philemon 2, Romans 16:5, and 1 Timothy 5:13 provide an effective model for outreach to the lost by planting churches; and
- WHEREAS, Synod through ABLAZE, has concentrated on critical events of reaching 100 million lost or misdirected people with the Gospel message by 2017; and
- WHEREAS, the Northwest District Board of Directors and leaders have encouraged the continued development of Tracking the Spirit as a movement of pastors, lay leaders, congregations, and individuals; and
- WHEREAS, the Tracking the Spirit movement supports the ABLAZE goal, the Council of Presidents, and the Biblical definition of church that where two or three are gathered; and
- WHEREAS, valid research has shown that culture has modified, society has transformed, and congregations can no longer expect that worship services will automatically attract people who have no connection to Church; and
- WHEREAS, people are not asking, "Is Christianity true?" they are asking, "What works for me?" which means to understand God they need to experience Him through transformation by the power of the Gospel and the Holy Spirit; and
- WHEREAS, the culture of the area included in the Northwest District has been identified as the 'most unchurched and previously churched' area of our country; and
- WHEREAS, professional church workers, lay leaders, congregations, schools and individuals throughout the district have recognized that the primary emphasis of the church is sharing the Gospel with all and identified with these principles through Tracking the Spirit in their daily lives; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that we thank the Lord of the harvest for the 29 new church plants which the Holy Spirit has created in the past 3 years through the Tracking the Spirit movement, and be it finally
- RESOLVED, the Northwest District-LCMS will continue to support Tracking the Spirit which encourages the following missional and incarnational models of Gospel outreach:
1. Renewed or continued focus on prayer for the lost; and
  2. Going to the people, not expecting them to come to the churches; and
  3. Transforming lives, not isolating new Christians from their existing network of relationships; and
  4. Emerging within the culture around them rather than ignoring it, adapting to the steady wind of the Holy Spirit as He leads to Gospel opportunities; and
  5. Forming churches of many small groups where members are engaged in the activities based on the mission of the communities while always remaining in the harvest; and
  6. Intentionally planting the seeds of the Gospel in their daily relationships with whomever they meet with the confidence that God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, will grow, prosper and multiply these seeds into thriving, Gospel outreach churches and congregations.

**Adopted      Yes – 273 No - 63**

## 2009 Northwest District Convention Adopted Resolutions

### **RESOLUTION: 2-02a**

#### **RESOLUTION REGARDING END OF LIFE ISSUES**

- WHEREAS, Life is a gift given by God for God's purposes and to God's glory, and
- WHEREAS, Life is corrupted by sin so that what was intended for good can become a burden and that what was intended to reflect the Creator and an ultimate purpose reveals primarily the creature and immediate concerns, and
- WHEREAS, Life has been redeemed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, so that even though it continues under the curse of sin, joy is restored, the Creator's hand is seen, and the fullness of redemption awaited in hope, and
- WHEREAS, the benefits of medical science to care, relieve pain, and extend life, can be understood as signs of the Creator's providential care, and the Redeemer's restorative activity, and
- WHEREAS, the last stages of life can become a time of enduring the limitations and frailty of human life, and
- WHEREAS, some would seek to forego these stages of life by taking the matters of life and death into their own hands through suicide, and
- WHEREAS, the states of Oregon and Washington have granted permission for Physician Assisted Suicide, and
- WHEREAS, this elevates death by one's own hand as the response to fear of not being in control of one's own life, and
- WHEREAS, this distorts the healing relationship between physician and individual, the trust relationship among family members and ultimately the faith relationship between God and people, and
- WHEREAS, a subsequent result can be the demeaning of life and death decisions to a level of financial expediency, i.e., so as not to be a financial burden, therefore be it
- RESOLVED, that the 62nd Convention of the Northwest District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod go on public record against Physician Assisted Suicide, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that we encourage the people of our congregations to become more knowledgeable about end of life issues: the burdens of those living in the last stages of life; living wills and their consequences; the ability of medical science to provide palliative care, the helpfulness of a caring community and the importance of spiritual care, and be it finally
- RESOLVED, that we encourage the leaders of congregations annually on a Sunday in January to provide opportunities for individuals to think about end of life issues prior to the time when these issues arise and give avenues for people to participate actively in a caring ministry to and with those in the last stages of life.

**Adopted**      **Yes – 242 No - 12**

## 2009 Northwest District Convention Adopted Resolutions

### **RESOLUTION: 2-03a**

#### **TO MINISTER TO YOUTH IN A POST-CHURCH, POSTMODERN CULTURE**

- WHEREAS, youth in the early 21<sup>st</sup> Century live in a post-church, postmodern world quite different from the modern world in which most church members were raised, and
- WHEREAS, postmodernism contains current manifestations of lies fostered by the Evil One exalting the individual as the measure of all things and maintaining all truth is only subjective and relative, and
- WHEREAS, two key elements of ministry among post-church, postmodern youth are relationships and stories, and
- WHEREAS, post-church, postmodern youth live and breathe technology which many moderns find discomforting, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that we encourage moderns seeking to do ministry among post-church, postmodern youth to make friends with technology enough to be aware of current gadgets so they can at least listen in an interested and inviting way as youth talk about their latest devices, and, further, be it
- RESOLVED, that we encourage those in the church to utilize the internet and published books to research the multiple available resources for ministry to youth in a post-church, postmodern world, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that we encourage church people to keep in mind the lies of the Evil One, even in their present versions, are not combated with sociology and with ministry technique, but with the Word of God and the Gospel of Jesus' blood shed for all, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that we encourage church people to work at developing listening, caring relationships with youth inside and outside the church, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that we encourage church people to recognize the importance of listening as youth and others tell their story, and recognize the importance of telling God's truth in story form to a culture that gathers information from narrative more than from propositional statements so common in our usual way of communicating in the church, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that we encourage church people who have always been devoted to a print culture to embrace the personal distribution of God's Word in digital audio forms that youth can hear, copy, and share freely with one another for playing on their personal digital devices, and be it further
- RESOLVED, to request the Center for Applied Lutheran Leadership to develop ministry ideas for outreach in the peculiar mission context of the Pacific Northwest, particularly outreach to alienated young adults, and be it finally
- RESOLVED, to commend cutting edge organizations such as higher things and issues, etc, for pioneering this effort to utilize multimedia means, while remaining faithful to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

(e.g. the World English audio Bible in MP3 available free through Vicki Knutsen at the NOW District Office)

**Adopted**                      **Yes – 310 No - 22**

2009 Northwest District Convention Adopted Resolutions

**RESOLUTION: 2-05**

**TO ENCOURAGE INTENTIONAL OUTREACH TO THE OLDER GENERATION**

WHEREAS, the Lord has given us the mandate to “make disciples of all nations,” and

WHEREAS, no one is excluded from “all nations,” regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, orientation, circumstance, condition, or anything else that might be used to define or divide people, and

WHEREAS, older men and women are often more conscious of, and ready to talk about, the end of life and life after death, and

WHEREAS, one’s peer group is an especially open opportunity, for all ages, to share the Good News of God’s love and salvation in Jesus Christ, and

WHEREAS, statistics tell us that our United States is increasing in an older population, and

WHEREAS, many, if not most, of our congregations have a significant number of older adults, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that our congregations give special emphasis, without neglecting other opportunities for sharing the Gospel, to reach out to the older men and women in their community, and be it further

RESOLVED, that our pastors, other professional church workers, and trained lay leaders, give prayerful and diligent attention and follow through to equip the older saints in our congregations to be aware of, and prepared to take opportunities to reach out to their peers with God’s love and the Good News of the saving Gospel of our Lord, and be it further

RESOLVED, that our congregations make it an intentional part of their ministry to be open, look for, create, and take opportunities to serve the older population in their community through various ministries such as health care ministries in the name of Christ; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the District make available to congregations resources and information to assist them in their outreach to older adults.

**Adopted Yes – 308 No - 18**

**RESOLUTION: 2-06a**

**TO MEMORIALIZE THE SYNOD TO INCLUDE DISABILITIES AWARENESS  
MINISTRY TRAINING IN THE CURRICULA OF SYNOD'S  
SEMINARIES AND UNIVERSITIES**

- WHEREAS, an estimated thirty to forty million Americans experience disabilities of one degree or another; and
- WHEREAS, the ministry of Christ reveals a special care for people with disabilities, and the Christian church throughout the centuries has strived for hospitality to all people in the spirit of Christ;
- WHEREAS, an aging population brings to the local congregation a significant challenge of increasing disabilities; and
- WHEREAS, that number is steadily increasing as American troops serving in foreign wars return with physical, emotional, and mental disabilities; and
- WHEREAS, there is a need to equip professional church workers to minister effectively and confidently with people with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS, ministry with people with disabilities does not appear to be articulated in the core curriculum requirement of our seminaries and universities; and
- WHEREAS, the rich gifts of people with disabilities are thereby not being used in the body of Christ; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, that the Northwest District in convention memorialize the 2010 convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to encourage our seminaries and universities to incorporate in their core curricula of training pastors and other professional church workers an emphasis on ministry to, with, and through people who have disabilities; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the Synod's Board for Pastoral Education together with Synod's Board for University Education take the responsibility of assisting our seminaries and universities in articulating objectives to be included in the core curriculum within the next triennium; and be it finally
- RESOLVED, that the appropriate commission under the Synod's Board for Human Care Ministries serve as consultants in the establishment of this training for our professional church workers.

**Adopted**                      **Yes – 216 No - 23**

**RESOLUTION: 2-08**

**STEWARDS OF CREATION**

WHEREAS, we acknowledge God as the almighty maker and sustainer of His gracious gift of creation, and that He entrusts care giving of His creation to humankind; Psalm 24: 1, Genesis 1, Genesis 2: 15, First Article of Apostles' Creed and its Explanation by Martin Luther; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility to be good stewards of the earth serves the sustainability of life and is to reflect God's love and care for the earth which He marvelously made Genesis, 1: 31; and

WHEREAS, care for the earth is not merely a scientific, social, or political issue but is a profoundly spiritual issue; and

WHEREAS, the effects of sin in the world is evident in humankind's neglect and exploitation of the earth and its resources; and

WHEREAS, wasteful use of energy and natural resources, emissions of harmful pollutants, and other failures of stewardship have created serious environmental challenges that threaten the welfare of God's creation and of human communities around the world, be it

RESOLVED, that we as individual Christians commit ourselves to be faithful creation caregivers as we consider such personal matters as the level of our consumption, waste of environmental resources, and any despoiling of creation's beauty and bounty; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations challenge themselves to explore the biblical foundations for the stewardship of creation, to be examples of and advocates for caring of God's creation, and to celebrate God's creation and the importance of our caring for it in our prayers and in other liturgical and worship opportunities; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the District's focus on the stewardship of creation be nurtured by the Center for Applied Lutheran Leadership and that resources, programs and materials be made available to District congregations and schools within one year.

**Adopted**      **Yes – 196 No - 56**

**RESOLUTION: 2-09**

**TO ENCOURAGE OPERATION BARNABAS TRAINING SEMINARS**

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod remains supportive of the men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces, and

WHEREAS, the Northwest District has been at the forefront of modeling compassionate ministry to military personnel and their families, and

WHEREAS, the Synod’s Operation Barnabas program provides outstanding resources for enhancing the Ministry to Military Personnel within every one of our congregations; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northwest District of the LCMS, in convention, reiterate its commitment to caring for military personnel and their families; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we strongly encourage all of our congregations to participate in upcoming Operation Barnabas training seminars.

**Adopted Yes – 249 No - 5**

## 2009 Northwest District Convention Adopted Resolutions

### **RESOLUTION: 2-10**

#### **TO THANK THE LORD OF THE CHURCH FOR BLESSING PRESIDENT SCHUMACHER WITH GIFTS OF LEADERSHIP AND TO RECOGNIZE HIS USE OF THOSE GIFTS IN DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE DISTRICT AND TO THE CHURCH**

- WHEREAS, the Lord of the Church blesses His church with people to serve Him and extend the mission of the church, (Ephesians 4) and
- WHEREAS, the Lord of the Church has, through His people gathered in convention June 24-26, 1994, as an election body, called Dr. Warren W. Schumacher to the Presidency of the Northwest District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, which he has served with distinguished dedication for 15 years, and
- WHEREAS, we thank the Lord for giving President Schumacher a patient, pastoral and evangelical heart, blessing him with strength and health and keeping him safe during thousands of miles of travel, and
- WHEREAS, President Schumacher has lovingly and faithfully empowered the talented Executive Staff and Support Staff serving in the District Office, and
- WHEREAS, he has used wisdom to deal evangelically, forthrightly and effectively with individuals and congregations in conflict, and
- WHEREAS, he has led the District and the Church with vision in the Lord's Mission in relation to the Church Universal and is highly regarded by leaders of both the LCMS and other church bodies, and
- WHEREAS, the Northwest District Board of Directors, as the elected governing body of the District between conventions, has annually evaluated President Warren Schumacher on the basis of its Ends and Executive Limitations Policies and
- WHEREAS, the Board has determined that in speaking the word of God to District and congregational members, he has served the Northwest District with faithful, effective service, leading it to be in the mission of Jesus Christ to 'seek and save the lost' (Luke 19:10), using the Board's Ends Policies which were developed as a response to Jesus' mission mandate.
- 1.0 The mission of the Northwest District is that more people are disciples of Jesus, in communion with God and with one another, in the Northwest District than the previous year., Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 1:9-10
  - 1.0.1 that "Lay leaders and professional church workers are well equipped, supported, encouraged and impelled in their congregation's ministry of reaching lost souls

## 2009 Northwest District Convention Adopted Resolutions

- 1.0.2 “LCMS congregations as part of the whole Christian church on earth work with congregations of various Christian bodies to reach the lost.”
- 1.0.3 School teachers and administrators are well equipped, supported, encouraged and impelled to prepare students to be strong leaders in their churches and communities
- 1.0.4 Defenseless, weak and hurting people individually and corporately are cared for and defended as an integral part of our Gospel proclamation,” and

WHEREAS, Christians are enjoined to “remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.” (Hebrews 13:7), therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northwest District assembled in convention in Portland, Oregon on June 18-20, 2009, thank God for the gifts of vision and administration He has given Dr. Warren W. Schumacher which has made him a blessing to the District and to the Church, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we recognize that he has used those gifts in fulfilling the mission of the Presidency of the Northwest District and to the glory of God, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that in praise to God and in recognition of Dr. Schumacher’s dedicated service, the convention rise and sing the common doxology.

### **Adopted by Acclamation**

In addition, Committee Two moved to designate the title of President Emeritus to Dr. Warren Schumacher.

**RESOLUTION 2-11**

**TO ACCEPT REPORTS**

WHEREAS, the Theology, Practice and District Ministries Committee has reviewed the reports of the Martha & Mary Lutheran Services, Ministry to Military Personnel, Families, and Congregations (MMPFC), Mount Rainer Lutheran High School, Northwest District PRAYER MINISTRY, NW Parish Nurse Ministries, Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ, Pacific Lutheran University, Pacific Rim Outreach Society, Riverview Retirement Community, Seminary Applicant Interview Committee, Student Aid Task Force, Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Home, Tacoma Seafarer's Center, Theological Consultant for NWD, Trinity Lutheran College, Wheat Ridge Ministries, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we accept these reports with thanksgiving to God for the contributions of these strategic alliances to the life and mission of the District during the past triennium; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we encourage their continuing efforts in the Lord's service during the next three years.

COMMITTEE NO. 2: Rev. Paul Doellinger, Chairman

(cf Martha & Mary Lutheran Services, page 4-42; Ministry to Military Personnel, Families, and Congregations (MMPFC), page 4-43; Mount Rainer Lutheran High School, page 4-45; Northwest District PRAYER MINISTRY, page 4-46; NW Parish Nurse Ministries, page 4-47; Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ, page 4-48; Pacific Lutheran University, page 4-49; Pacific Rim Outreach Society, page 4-50; Riverview Retirement Community, page 4-51; Seminary Applicant Interview Committee, page 4-52; Student Aid Task Force, page 4-54; Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Home, page 4-55; Tacoma Seafarer's Center, page 4-56; Theological Consultant for NWD, page 4-57; Trinity Lutheran College, page 4-58; Wheat Ridge Ministries, page 4-60)

**Adopted**      **Yes – 245 No - 3**

## 2009 Northwest District Convention Adopted Resolutions

### **OMNIBUS RESOLUTION A**

<b><u>Overtures</u></b>	<b><u>Subject</u></b>	<b><u>Board, Commission, or Individual</u></b>
1-05	To Establish a Process By Which Commissioned Ministers May be Elected Delegates for DISTRICT	Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance
1-06	To Establish a Process by Which Commissioned Ministers May be Elected Delegates for SYNOD Conventions	Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance
1-11	To Memorialize Synod to Abandon Its 'Guttenberg' Ways and Embrace our 'Google' World	Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance
1-13	To Recognize Synod Trained Church Workers Not on Synod's Roster for on IRS Purposes	replaced by Resolution 1-06a and referred to Blue Ribbon Task Force Synod Structure and Governance
<b><u>Adopted</u></b>	<b><u>Yes – 216 No - 90</u></b>	