



## Resolution 04-02-25

---

- SUBJECT:** **Regularizing Specific Ministry Pastoral Classification**  
(Reference Overture(s) 04-02-25 printed on page 195 of Convention Workbook)
- WHEREAS,** Our Lutheran Confessions state “... that nobody should preach publicly in the church or administer the sacraments unless he is regularly called” (AC XIV) and that ordination is an essential component of a regular, ordered call (Treatise 67, 69-71); and
- WHEREAS,** Membership Status and Limitations noted in The Handbook of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (Handbook, 2.13) applies requirements and limitations on Specific Ministry Pastors [SMP] that include:
- a. Remaining in a specific ministry context
  - b. Remain under supervision by a general pastor
  - c. Limits his Call outside of the context of his Call.
  - d. Is not eligible to serve as a voting delegate to the National Convention
  - e. Is not eligible to be elected or appointed to offices at the District and Synod level
  - f. May not supervise vicars
  - g. May not serve as Circuit Visitor; and
- WHEREAS,** Other classifications of pastors (EIIT [Ethnic Immigrant Institute Theology], Hispanic, CMC [Cross Cultural Ministry Center] and others) who are not graduates from a residential program track (MDiv and AR [Alternate Route]) have been granted ordination without notation of how these non-residential tracks are to be managed in the context of Handbook 2.13.1.a, b, and c.; and
- WHEREAS,** Confusion on how to deal with ordained pastors who are not SMP or graduates from residential ministry tracks continues to exist; and
- WHEREAS,** Non-residential tracks toward ordination are not currently treated in a similar manner as Specific Ministry Pastors (SMP) and SMP Colloquy; therefore, be it



**RESOLVED,**

That Synod in Convention adopt language for all non-residential and ordained ministers of religion-ordained; and be it finally

That Handbook 2.13.1 be modified to include new language that states: “A ‘Specific Ministry Pastor’ is a minister of religion--ordained who has completed the requirements for service as a specific ministry pastor, EIIT, Hispanic ministry, CMC, or any other non-residential ministry track and has been examined by one of the Synod’s seminaries, has received a regular call, and has been placed by the Council of Presidents into a specific Word and Sacrament ministry context.”

---

Rev. Kevin Conger

---

Mathew Pitsch