



# Resolution 02-01A-18

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**SUBJECT: To Reaffirm Our Historic and Confessional Mission Focus**

*(Reference Overture 02-05-18 printed on pages 160-161 of the Convention Workbook)*

- WHEREAS,** Our Lord Jesus has entrusted His church with the great task of making disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching; and
- WHEREAS,** Jesus is the only way of salvation (John 14:6; Acts 4:12); and
- WHEREAS,** St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 affirms our need to keep the message of the Gospel the same while adjusting our language and approach to fit the cultural context; and
- WHEREAS,** C. F. W. Walther, First President of LCMS, in his opening address to the first Synodical Conference challenged our congregations to avoid the endless debates that would render us ineffective by being united in the mission to save those who are perishing apart from Christ. Walther states: *...what would happen if we really would make the saving of souls the ultimate purpose, the end and aim of our joint work? ...what an influence it will be on our dear congregations and their pastors and on their relationship toward one another if all acknowledge the saving of souls as the end and aim of our joint work! They will all pull, as peacefully as they do zealously, on the same yoke. Even though all kinds of strife-causing questions might arise – yet the question: “Which course is best for the salvation of souls?” will quickly give the right solution.... Then our dear congregations will say to one another, as Abraham said to Lot: “Let there be not strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdsmen and thy herdsmen; for we are brethren...” (Gen. 13:8f.). Whatever will win the most souls for Christ, that would decide between us.... (Lutheran Standard, October 1, 1872, vol. XXX-No. 19); and*
- WHEREAS,** The Formula of Concord affirms the congregation’s right to adapt its practices in Article X of the Solid Declaration (Formula of Concord – Solid Declaration, Article X, page 612, paragraph 9ff, 1981, Tappert Edition); and
- WHEREAS,** Our Lutheran Confessions affirm that “the chief purpose of all ceremonies is to teach the people what they need to know about Christ” (AC XXIV, 3); and

**WHEREAS,** Our Synod in the 2004 convention, Resolution 2-04 affirmed a congregation's freedom and responsibility in worship resources.; therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in convention reaffirms the importance of maintaining unity among us by being diligent to hold steadfast to Holy Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions; and our Lutheran identity and heritage; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That we affirm the liberty and responsibility of each congregation and school to adapt outreach techniques, teaching styles, and worship practices to fit their cultural context in accordance with our Lutheran Confessions.

Rev. Robert Portier, Chair  
Rev. Joshua Willadsen, Secretary