



Resolution 02-05-18

SUBJECT: To Encourage Workers In Personal Evangelism

(Reference Overture 02-04-18 printed on pages 158-159 of the Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** Jesus sent his disciples into the world to be his witnesses; and
- WHEREAS,** Jesus declared to his followers “⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” *Acts 1:8* (ESV); and
- WHEREAS,** St. Paul reminds us that we cannot believe in Christ of whom we have not heard. We cannot hear unless someone is sent out to proclaim. ¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. *Romans 10:14-17* (ESV); and
- WHEREAS,** Synod in convention has repeatedly encouraged congregations to place evangelism to the lost as a top priority. (Resolution 1-08, To Affirm That the Mission of the Church is Urgent and to Raise Mission Awareness, 1995 Convention Proceedings, pages 102-108; Resolution 1-01, To “Tell The Good News About Jesus”, 2001 Convention Proceedings, page 119; Resolution 1-02, To Be Passionate for the Great Commission, 2001 Convention Proceedings, pages 119-120; Resolution 1-03A, To Intensify Mission Effort, 2001 Convention Proceedings, page 120; Resolution 1-01A, To Affirm Mission 21st Century Response To Great Commission, 2004 Convention Proceedings, page 119; Resolution 1-02, To Promote “Mission Outpost” Attitude, 2004 Convention Proceedings, page 120; Resolution 1-05A, To Encourage the Congregations and People of the LCMS for the Joy of Evangelization and the Making of New Disciples, 2013 Convention Proceedings, page 101; and
- WHEREAS,** Our Synod in its 2016 Convention adopted language that encourages all congregation members to support witnessing of the Gospel, *Resolved, That the 2016 LCMS convention pray that the Lord of the harvest bless our work of witness to the Gospel and our work of mercy, that His will may be done among us, and that all may be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. (Res. 2-02)*; and

WHEREAS, The 2016 Synod convention adopted a Resolution, stating,
Resolved, That the 2016 LCMS convention reaffirm the threefold emphasis of “Witness, Mercy, Life Together,” including the following six priorities:

- *Plant, sustain, and revitalize Lutheran churches*
- *Support and expand theological education*
- *Perform human care in close proximity to Word and Sacrament ministries*
- *Collaborate with the Synod’s members and partners to enhance mission effectiveness*
- *Promote and nurture the spiritual, emotional, financial, and physical well-being of pastors and professional church workers*
- *Enhance early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, and youth ministry; and*

WHEREAS, Called workers set an example for personal witnessing; and

WHEREAS, Congregations often experience an increase in guests to their worship services when the pastor, staff, and members consistently spend time each week cultivating relationships and sharing the faith in the community; and

WHEREAS, Pastors and called workers are often limited in their opportunity for personal witnessing by finances and time constraints due to expectations of their ministry; and

WHEREAS, The Mid-South District has conducted workshops throughout the District, using “Everyone His Witness” materials produced by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, The 2016 Convention of Synod stated, *Resolved, That districts be directed and congregations be encouraged to develop specific outreach plans to share the Gospel with their Muslim neighbors;* and

WHEREAS, The Mid-South District has partnered with the Mid-South District LWML to bring witnessing and outreach into each congregation of the District; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Mid-South District in convention affirms the importance of personal witnessing for the salvation of the Lost and the health of the local congregation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Mid-South District seek a continued partnership with the Mid-South District LWML to provide training and resources to assist called workers and lay leaders in personal witnessing and the promotion of personal witnessing among the members of each of our District’s congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED,

That congregations demonstrate personal witnessing as a priority of their church by encouraging their workers to spend time on a weekly basis in the community, and by assisting the workers in their current responsibilities so as to not add further to their work load; and be it finally

RESOLVED,

That congregations be encouraged to include funds to be used at the discretion of the pastor, and when possible, all called workers to support their efforts for personal witnessing in the community.

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