



Resolution 01-01-25

SUBJECT: To Reaffirm Church Planting

(Reference Overture(s) 01-01-25 printed on page 168 of Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** Jesus commands the church to go and make disciples by baptizing, teaching (*Matthew 28:18*) and seeking the lost as our foremost priority (*Luke 19:10*); and
- WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod noted in 2019 Res. 1-02, that “*From its inception The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been a church planting body. Church planting arises out of God’s desire that ‘all people be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth’ (1 Tim. 2:4). It rests on the promise that God will accomplish His will through His people as He empowers and strengthens them through His gifts of Word and Sacrament.*” 2019 Proceedings, 116; and
- WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod noted in 2019 Res. 4-03A, that one of the seven mission priorities previously affirmed at the 2016 Synod convention is to “plant, sustain, and revitalize Lutheran churches;” and
- WHEREAS,** 2019 Resolution 4-03A also established “*Making Disciples for Life* as its mission and ministry emphasis for the 2019-2022 triennium” and directed the Office of National Mission...to “resource congregations, schools, circuits and districts to do the following:
- evangelize and disciple the lost;
 - retain the faithful;
 - strengthen congregations and schools;
 - plant new congregations and schools wherever possible, especially in urban and multi-cultural communities; and
 - engage in international mission in partnership with the Office of International Mission; and be it finally
- Resolved,* That the Synod encourage all LCMS districts, congregations and schools to make use of the *Making Disciples for Life* resources and tools as these become available;” and
- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District has a rich history of starting new ministries which focus on reaching the lost; and
- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District has started many ministries which boldly share the Good News of Jesus while maintaining doctrinal and theological integrity; and
- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District Board of Directors has adopted the *Church and Ministry Covenant* that “sets the expectations for working with a church planter, alongside a mother church and other area churches, for future church plants;” and



WHEREAS,

Recent church planting initiatives reached many people with the Gospel who previously had little or no connection to the church; and

WHEREAS,

The most recent self-sustaining church plants have come as a result of circuit and/or “mother church” formats, therefore be it

RESOLVED,

That the Mid-South District in convention affirms the initiatives of the District’s Church Planting effort, and the congregations and pastors actively involved in new church planting activities that focus on reaching the lost consistent with Synod policy for *Church Planting Simplified*; and be it further

RESOLVED,

That the Mid-South District establish partnerships with circuits and congregations who are willing to initiate and support ongoing church planting efforts consistent with the policies and guidelines established by the Mid-South District Board of Directors in the Church and Ministry Covenant that will “stand firm and hold to the traditions that [we] were taught” (2 Thess. 2:15) in the Holy Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, and our Lutheran identity and heritage, while affirming the “right, authority, and power [for each church plant] to change, reduce, or increase ceremonies according to its circumstances, as long as it does so without frivolity and offense but in an orderly and appropriate way” (SD Art. X, 9); and be it further

RESOLVED,

That Mid-South District circuits, congregations and schools be encouraged to utilize resources from the Office of National Mission and *Making Disciples for Life* in their church planting and evangelism efforts, and be it finally

RESOLVED,

That we give thanks to God for the congregations, workers, and members involved in planting new congregations which boldly share the Gospel of Jesus in their respective communities.

Rev. Eric Longman

Rev. Sawyer Meyers