



Resolution 03-01-25

SUBJECT: To Shape the Faith Formation Paradigm from Generation to Generation Ministry

(Reference Overture(s) 03-01-25 printed on page 187 of Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, in Convention in 2019 passed Resolution 12-04A3, “To Encourage Lifelong Catechesis in the Home and Church”; and
- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South district has partnered with Concordia Center for the Family for the Generation to Generation pilot initiative to empower and deliver family ministry training and support to district congregations, and to help Christian families in faith formation for the sake of the Gospel; and
- WHEREAS,** That one fourth of the world's population is under age 15, and the parents are primarily millennials who believe that attending church once a month means they attend regularly; and
- WHEREAS,** Some children are being raised by others than their parents; and
- WHEREAS,** Many grandparents are raising their grandchildren while trying to help with adult children; and
- WHEREAS,** 25% of children whose primary faith influence is the church will remain faithful in the adult life, and 81% of children whose primary faith influence is the family will remain faithful into adulthood, which suggests that a home-centered paradigm is more effective for retention than one that is exclusively church-centered; and
- WHEREAS,** Christian Smith, the author of *Soul Searching*, says, “For better or worse, most parents in fact still do profoundly influence their adolescents often more than do their peers, their children's apparent resistance and lack of appreciation notwithstanding... most teenagers and their parents may not realize that, but a lot of research in sociology of religion suggests that the most important social influence shaping young persons’ religious lives is the religious life modeled and taught to them by their parents.”; and
- WHEREAS,** We must recognize children and youth, not as the church future, but as the church now; and
- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District in cooperation with Concordia Center for the Family and its pilot study was designed to offer a one-day Family Ministry Conference across the district, focusing on one specific area, beginning with faith formation; as this will affect the lives of everyone in the congregation from cradle to grave; and
- WHEREAS,** The Generation to Generation program was designed to enable congregations 1) to challenge our churches to stop the decline of young peoples’ attendance at church, and 2) to be intentional, and create a system



RESOLVED,

for families to learn to discipleship in the home; 3) to enable parents to become the primary faith influencers in their home so the families may thrive for the sake of the gospel; to equip the church to support those who are in non-nuclear families; therefore be it

The congregations of the Mid-South District will be encouraged to participate in educational ministries and to evaluate and implement the Generation to Generation recommendations as applicable to their own unique settings; and be it further

RESOLVED,

That the congregations of the Mid-South District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod be urged to develop systems of study and preparation based on their context. With parents, guardians, and members, congregations can help shape the spiritual lives of their children using the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran confessions; and be it further

RESOLVED,

That the congregations of the Mid-South District share their successful strategies with the District Office on implementing lifelong catechesis in the home.

Rev. Kevin McReynolds

Tessa Brasher