



Resolution 03-04-25

SUBJECT: To Encourage Personal Evangelism

(Reference Overture(s) 03-04-25 printed on page 192 of Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** Jesus sent his disciples into the world to be his witnesses (Matthew 28:18ff); and
- WHEREAS,** Jesus declared to his followers "...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); 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. "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? 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!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:14-17); and
- WHEREAS,** The Synod in convention has repeatedly encouraged congregations to make witnessing and evangelism a top priority in their ministry efforts. (1995 Res. 1-08, "To Affirm That the Mission of the Church is Urgent and to Raise Mission Awareness" *Proceedings*, 107-8; 2001 Res. 1-01, "To 'Tell The Good News About Jesus'", Res. 1-02, "To Be Passionate for the Great Commission," and Res. 1-03A, "To Intensify Mission Effort, *Proceedings*, 119-120; 2004 Res. 1-01A, "To Affirm Mission 21st Century Response To Great Commission, and Res. 1-02, To Promote "Mission Outpost" Attitude, *Proceedings*, 119-120; 2013 Res. 1-05A, "To Encourage the Congregations and People of the LCMS for the Joy of Evangelization and the Making of New Disciples," *Proceedings*, 101);" 2019 Res. 1-01A, *Proceedings*, 115; and
- WHEREAS,** Our Synod in its 2019 Convention adopted language that encourages all congregation members and church workers to support witnessing of the Gospel, (Res. 1-01A); and



- WHEREAS,** Called workers set an example for personal witnessing; and
- WHEREAS,** Congregations often experience an increase in visitors 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,** 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 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 reaffirm 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, lay leaders, and congregations in personal witnessing; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That congregations demonstrate personal witnessing as a priority of their church.

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