



## Resolution 02-01-21

---

**SUBJECT: To Commend and Support the Work of Trinity HOPE in Haiti**

(Reference to Overture 02-07-21 printed on page 152 of Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** Christ instructed us in Matthew 28:19 to “go and make disciples of all nations” and commends those who have fed “the least of these brothers of mine” in Matthew 25:31; and
- WHEREAS,** Trinity HOPE has demonstrated that providing a noon meal for the hungry children in our Lutheran and other Christian schools in Haiti shows the compassion of Christ to those who believe that God is unapproachable on the basis of Voodoo teaching; and
- WHEREAS,** There are effective efforts by LCMS churches to build the body of Christ in Haiti by partnering with Christian schools affiliated with local churches that provide a meal to the children who are often too hungry to learn; and
- WHEREAS,** Trinity HOPE is providing over 42,000 meals daily at a cost of about \$0.25 each for the teachers and children in over 200 of these schools, and
- WHEREAS,** Children in our schools in Haiti are coming to faith in response to the Word and its witness faster than any other population segment and often later are instruments in bringing their whole families to the knowledge of Jesus Christ; therefore be it;
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in Conventions commends Trinity HOPE and its supporters for their work and encourages the district’s members and others in support of this work, which blesses children by supplying an opportunity for them to be fed both physically and spiritually; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in Convention allocate \$10,000 annually to support the work of Trinity HOPE beginning in 2022.

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED**



## Resolution 02-02-21

---

**SUBJECT: To Continue a Relationship with the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania**

(Reference to Overtures 02-06-21, 02-09-21, and 02-10-21 printed on pages 151, 154, 155 of Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District has had a long relationship with the East of Lake Victoria and Southeast of Lake Victoria diocese, working in consultation with and encouraged by the Office of the Synod President, and the Synod's Office of International Mission and Board for International Mission; and
- WHEREAS,** The Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese (SELVD) in convention has made a conscious effort to partner with a Confessional Lutheran Church Body and has strengthened the relationship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS); and
- WHEREAS,** Mid-South District leaders, in consultation with the Office of the Synod President and in conjunction with Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, have sought ways to provide solid confessional Lutheran education and training for pastors and leaders in the SELVD; and
- WHEREAS,** There continue to be great humanitarian needs in the country of Tanzania and in the regions of Shinyanga and Mwanza; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District continues working with the SELVD to encourage them to work diligently in their Confessional Lutheran identity; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That in this relationship, the Mid-South District focus its funding of \$12,500 on specific education and training held in Tanzania for pastors and lay evangelists of the SELVD in which LCMS instructors provide theological instruction in the area of Pastoral Ministry; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That in this relationship, the Mid-South District work with leaders of the LCMS and its seminaries in also providing \$12,500 for scholarships for SELVD pastoral candidates to study for higher degrees in our LCMS seminaries; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District continue sending mission teams which operate in accordance with Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and in coordination with the Office of International Mission to support the humanitarian and witnessing needs of the SELVD; and be it finally

***RESOLVED,***

That we thank God for the opportunity to participate in this partnership that has seen the Word of God shared with tens of thousands of members of the Sukuma Tribe.

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED**



## Resolution 02-03-21

---

**SUBJECT: To Continue a Relationship with the Confessional Malagasy Lutheran Church in Madagascar**

(Reference to Overture 02-05-21 printed on page 149 of Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District has a growing relationship with the Malagasy Lutheran Church, working in consultation with and encouraged by the Office of the Synod President, and the Synod's Office of International Mission/Board for International Mission; and
- WHEREAS,** The Malagasy Lutheran Church in convention has made an overture to partner with a Confessional Lutheran Church Body and will have its request be formally considered for altar and pulpit relationship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) at its next Synodical Convention; and
- WHEREAS,** Mid-South District leaders, in consultation with the President's Office of the LCMS, and in conjunction with Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, have provided solid confessional Lutheran education and training for pastors and leaders in the Malagasy Lutheran Church; and
- WHEREAS,** There continue to be great humanitarian needs in the country of Madagascar; and
- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District has supported opportunities for students in Madagascar to attend the Malagasy Lutheran Church's "Lutheran Institute of Managerial Enterprise (LIME University)"; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District continues working with the Malagasy Lutheran Church to encourage them to work diligently in their Confessional Lutheran identity; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District encourage and support the Malagasy Lutheran Church to seek official relations with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That in this relationship, the Mid-South District focus its funding of \$25,000 on specific education and training held in Madagascar for pastors and lay evangelists of the Malagasy Lutheran Church whereby LCMS instructors provide theological instruction in the area of Pastoral Ministry; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That a portion of the \$25,000 funding be used for support of ministries and mission of the Malagasy Lutheran Church, including LIME; and be it finally

***RESOLVED,***

That congregations and schools in the Mid-South District be encouraged to continue supporting humanitarian efforts to assist the people living in Madagascar through short term mission trips in coordination with the Office of International Mission and the Mid-South District Missions.

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED**





## Resolution 02-04-21

---

### **SUBJECT: To Reaffirm Church Planting and Revitalization**

(Reference to Overture 02-04-21 on page 147 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,** Recent church planting initiatives have had many people reached 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 “mothering congregation” 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; 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 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.

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED**



## Resolution 02-05-21

---

### **SUBJECT: To Encourage Financial Support for Professional Church Workers**

(Reference Overture 02-01-21 printed on page 142 of Convention Workbook)

#### **WHEREAS,**

The Synod in Convention in 2016 passed Res. 18-03A which stated

*“Whereas, the Synod continues to pray that our Lord would send faithful laborers into the harvest fields (Luke 10:2); and*

*Whereas, Student indebtedness can be a deterrent for potential professional church workers; and*

*Whereas, The Synod takes seriously the Lord’s command that, ‘the worker is worthy of his wage,’ (1 Tim. 5:18); and*

*Whereas, The cost of higher education has increased at a substantially higher rate than anticipated potential income; and*

*Whereas, The typical salaries for professional church workers may make it difficult to sustain a household and also repay the incurred debt; and*

*Whereas, Student indebtedness can discourage healthy stewardship; and*

*Whereas, One of the Synod’s foundational objectives is, ‘to recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth’ (Constitution, Art. III 3); and*

*Whereas, Research done by the LCMS seminaries has shown that undergraduate debt and personal finance management contribute significantly to subsequent educational loan debt; and*

*Whereas, Student indebtedness is a well-documented burden; and*

*Whereas, In order to qualify for federal loan programs, our seminaries and universities are being forced to accommodate federal Department of Education policies that may be in conflict with our shared beliefs and practices in the Synod; and*



*Whereas, In order to become a certified professional church worker in the LCMS, students are required to attend a Concordia University System school or an LCMS seminary; and*

*Whereas, Attending a Concordia University System school also well equips men for subsequent seminary training; and*

*Whereas, The seminaries are pursuing making financial counseling available to all students; therefore be it*

*Resolved, That the leadership of our Concordia seminaries and universities/colleges explore alternate funding sources apart from federal loans; and be it further*

*Resolved, That schools in the Concordia University System provide financial counseling to church worker students throughout their academic careers; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the congregations and ministries of the Synod identify and raise up the next generation of leaders for the ministry of the church and support them financially in obtaining their training; and be it finally*

*Resolved, That districts of the Synod be encouraged to develop means by which they may financially assist students preparing for church work careers and current church workers.''' (Res. 18-03, Proceedings, 262-263); therefore be it*

**RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District continue to fund designated contributions to *MinistryFocus* for District professional church workers burdened with significant educational debt; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District establish additional funding allocated from the District Sunday and designated convention offerings.

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED**



## Resolution 02-06-21

---

**SUBJECT: To Encourage All Christians In Personal Witnessing**

(Reference Overture 02-02-21 printed on page 144 of Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** Jesus sends his disciples into the world to be his witnesses; and
- WHEREAS,** St. Peter teaches to Christians: “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” (1 Peter 2:9-10); and
- WHEREAS,** The Synod in convention has repeatedly encouraged congregations to make witnessing a top priority in their ministry efforts; and
- WHEREAS,** The 2019 Synod convention adopted a Resolution, stating,  
*Resolved, That the Synod in convention establish Making Disciples for Life as its mission and ministry emphasis for the 2019-2022 triennium...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*
- 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, but are often limited in their opportunity for personal witnessing due to other responsibilities of their ministry; and
- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District has conducted workshops throughout the District, using “*Everyone His Witness*” and “*Each 1 Reach 1*”; 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 reaffirms the importance of personal witnessing for the salvation of the lost and the spiritual 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 finally

***RESOLVED,*** That congregations demonstrate personal witnessing as a priority of their church by encouraging their workers and members to spend time on a weekly basis in the community, and by assisting their workers and members with any financial, time, or other constraints which may hinder their witnessing.

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED AS CORRECTED**



## Resolution 02-07-21

---

**SUBJECT: To Address the Use of Technology in the Life of the Church and the Ministry of Congregations**

(Reference Overture 02-08-21 on page 153 of Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** Situations arise in which it is difficult for congregations to gather; and
- WHEREAS,** The use of technology in various formats (i.e., livestreaming worship; recorded worship; online Bible Studies; etc.) has been a great help in keeping congregations united through the hearing of God's Word and also has served the Church with communicating important information; and
- WHEREAS,** The use of technology also has its negative aspects, such as inadvertently encouraging members not to gather as is commanded by Scripture (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:25), creating confusion with Communion and congregational voting practices, etc.; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That Mid-South District in convention ask the Synod to prepare and make available resources that address the use of technology with its pros and cons in the life of the Church at large and within the framework of the congregations of the Synod; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in convention ask the Synod to direct the CTCR to study and provide a document pertaining to The Use of Technology in The Church and Congregations; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in convention submit this memorial to the next convention of the Synod.

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED**





## Resolution 02-08-21

---

### **SUBJECT: To Encourage Congregational Men's Ministry**

(Reference to Overture 02-11-21 printed on page 156 of Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** Christian men face increasing hostility from a culture that speaks of “toxic masculinity” and mocks their faith in God; and
- WHEREAS,** Christ warns us that in the last days “Because of the multiplication of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold (Matthew 24:12) and “when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” (Luke 18:8); and
- WHEREAS,** Just as athletes and soldiers have a better chance of success when working together, Scripture teaches: “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17); and
- WHEREAS,** The Synod in Convention has encouraged men's and family ministries (2019 Res. 12-03 A and 2019 Res. 12-07 B); and
- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District LCMS serves as a pilot district for the *Generation 2 Generation* ministry; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That we encourage congregations of the Mid-South District to have a men's ministry that provides opportunities for Christian men to study Scripture, develop leadership skills, to join in Christian fellowship, to build strong families, and to serve their communities; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That we encourage congregations to make use of the District's resources for family ministry such as *Generation 2 Generation*.

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED**



## Resolution 02-09-21

---

**SUBJECT: To Encourage the Study and Use of Biblically-based Stewardship Resources**

(Reference to Overture 02-03-21 on page 146 of Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** Many congregations continue to struggle with a decline in attendance, the lack of workers and financial resources to meet the mission and ministry needs of the congregation; and
- WHEREAS,** One of the reasons for these and other challenges congregations face is a lack of ongoing, intentional, and systematic Biblical stewardship education; and
- WHEREAS,** Biblical stewardship education for all members throughout the Mid-South District is fundamental for addressing the challenges referenced above; and
- WHEREAS,** The LCMS Office of National Mission's Stewardship Ministry has published biblically-based resources; and
- WHEREAS,** Several other biblically-based programs of stewardship are available designed to help steward leaders present the aspect of Christian Stewardship; and therefore be it;
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District promote the study and use of stewardship education resources to raise awareness of the Biblical stewardship lifestyle in all District congregations; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District be encouraged to use appropriate avenues to conduct stewardship education conferences or events that reach the "people in the pews" and include all church leaders (ordained, commissioned, and lay).

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED**