



## Resolution 02-02-25

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

(Reference Overture 02-05-25 printed on page 183 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 Timothy 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, Article 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.’’ (Resolution 18-03, Proceedings, 262-263); therefore, be it*

**RESOLVED,**

That the Mid-South District evaluate and develop a financial assistance program to assist students attending Concordia University System schools in church work tracts and seminaries; and be it further

**RESOLVED,**

That the Mid-South District continue to fund designated contributions to *Ministry Focus* for District professional church workers; and be it finally

**RESOLVED,**

That the Mid-South District establish additional funding, allocated from the 2025 District Sunday and Designated Convention Offerings for a Scholarship Fund for Pastors and Commissioned Church Workers burdened with significant educational debt.



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Pastor Willie Grills

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Keith D'Atrio