

# 1. Missions

## To Support Revitalization of LCMS Congregations

### RESOLUTION 1-01A

**Report R1-01 (CW, pp. 39–45); Overture 1-03 (CW, p. 133)**

WHEREAS, In response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the *Ablaze!* goals of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod—to share the Good News of Jesus with 50 million unreached or uncommitted people in North America and to begin 2,000 new missions by the year 2017—will be accomplished by the committed outreach activities of individuals in local congregations; and

WHEREAS, The 2004 convention called for every LCMS church to move toward being a mission outpost. Currently, 67 congregations are participating in a pilot program testing mission revitalization strategies; and

WHEREAS, A revitalized congregation is regularly and consistently making new disciples and renewing its members in order that they make new disciples through the power of the Holy Spirit; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention adopt a goal of praying and working for the mission revitalization of at least 2,000 existing LCMS churches by 2017; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the LCMS through its districts, congregations, Lutheran Hour Ministries, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, LWML, and LCMS World Mission through its national team, support the mission revitalization efforts as a major component of *Ablaze!*

**Action:** Adopted (1)

(During discussion, a suggestion to amend the third whereas paragraph by adding the words “and renewing its members in order that they” after the first occurrence of the word “disciples” in place of the word “who” was agreed to by the committee. The resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 929; No: 199].)

**To Prepare New Study and Increase Emphasis  
on Priesthood of All Believers**

**RESOLUTION 1-03**

**Overtures 1-06–09 (CW, pp. 134–135)**

WHEREAS, All Christians are called by God as priests for the nations by virtue of their Baptism (Ex. 19:5, 6; 1 Peter 2:9); and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther declared that all believers are priests called by God to declare the works of God (*Luther's Works*, American Edition, vol. 30, pp. 62–65); and

WHEREAS, The historic doctrine of the LCMS has clearly affirmed the priesthood of all believers as stated in the *Brief Statement of the Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod* (adopted 1932): “Since the Christians are the Church, it is self-evident that they alone *originally* possess the spiritual gifts and rights which Christ has gained for, and given to, His Church. Thus St. Paul reminds all believers: ‘All things are yours,’ 1 Cor. 3:21, 22, and Christ Himself commits to all believers the keys of the kingdom of heaven, Matt. 16:13–19; 18:17–20; John 20:22, 23, and commissions all believers to preach the Gospel and to administer the Sacraments, Matt. 28:19, 20; 1 Cor. 11:23–25. Accordingly, we reject all doctrines by which this spiritual power or any part thereof is adjudged as *originally* vested in certain individuals or bodies, such as the Pope, or the bishops, or the order of the ministry, or the secular lords, or councils, or synods, etc.” (p. 14); and

WHEREAS, This doctrine must be clearly reaffirmed and articulated in all parts of our Synod and faithfully applied and elaborated in reference to missionary work entrusted to God’s people; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Synod in its 2007 convention direct the Commission on Theology and Church Relations in consultation with the Board for Mission Services to prepare a comprehensive study document which clearly presents the biblical teaching of the royal priesthood and Luther’s teaching on vocation in the light of the mission challenges of today; and be it further

*Resolved*, That this resolution be given high priority by the CTCR; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That after approval by the Synod in convention, this document be used by the whole church, its congregations and church workers, and by the LCMS seminaries and universities in instructing students about the royal priesthood especially in its relationship to the unreached.

**Action: Adopted (10)**

(During discussion, the committee responded to a motion to strike the final resolve with a suggestion that “after approval by the Synod in convention” be inserted into the final resolve after the word “That.” This was agreed to by the delegate who had made the motion to amend. An additional proposed amendment to insert “and Luther’s teaching on vocation” after “priesthood” in the first resolve was also agreed to by the committee. The resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 714; No: 151].)

## To Encourage an Intentional Mission Development Focus

### RESOLUTION 1-04

#### Report 1-01 (*CW*, pp. 39–45)

WHEREAS, Our Synod has set a goal that, under God's blessing, we will plant 2,000 new congregations by 2017; and

WHEREAS, This church planting challenge requires that we make equipping God's people for mission a high priority; and

WHEREAS, It is helpful for congregations to have new and effective resources with which members can be taught and trained to serve in mission development; and

WHEREAS, The Lord has raised up many exciting ministries and partnerships under the umbrella of the Board for Mission Services such as the Center for U.S. Missions, the Advisory Group for National Missions, and the *Ablaze!* Connection; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we thank God for these developments; and be it further

*Resolved*, That we encourage the Board for Mission Services to use these resources and others to develop training opportunities and manuals to assist God's people in mission development and to focus all these efforts for the training of God's people for intentional church planting.

**Action:** Adopted (10)

(This resolution was adopted as presented by the committee without discussion [Yes: 708; No: 115].)

## To Make Outreach a Top Priority in Worker Training

### RESOLUTION 1-05S

#### Report 1-01 (*CW*, pp. 39–45)

WHEREAS, "Two out of every three" people in the world "do not know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior," and "nearly 50 percent of Americans claim no religious affiliation" (Report of LCMS World Mission, *CW*, p. 39), and the population of the U.S. continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, In the *Ablaze!* initiative the Synod has committed itself and all its members to grow in intentional mission development efforts; and

WHEREAS, Our Synod is blessed with faithful universities and seminaries who train the next generation of church workers for our rapidly changing cultures and ever-increasing mission field; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Synod in its 2007 convention encourage and direct universities and seminaries to place outreach to the lost as a top priority as they train workers for the harvest, preparing them to equip God's people for the local and worldwide mission field.

**Action:** Adopted (6)

(During discussion, a motion to amend the resolve paragraph by replacing "place outreach to the lost as a top priority" with "give greater attention to outreach to the lost" failed. A motion to amend the title of the resolution and its resolve by replacing "the" with "a" was ruled a substitute resolution. After the assembly voted to consider the substitute resolution, it was adopted [Yes: 706; No: 419].)

## To Commend our Chaplains

### RESOLUTION 1-06

#### Report 1-01 (*CW*, pp. 39–45)

WHEREAS, There are more than 230 chaplains endorsed by LCMS Ministry to Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Our chaplains serve in arduous and dangerous arenas on land, sea, and air through lengthy and repeated deployments, separated from home and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Our Synod's military chaplains are called to proclaim Christ in a pluralistic society, to cooperate without compromise on every occasion as they live and serve under the *LCMS Chaplain Guidelines*; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we give thanks to God for the sacrifice and faithful service of our chaplains to our men and women in uniform; and be it further

*Resolved*, That we commend and honor our chaplains for serving with wisdom and integrity; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That the Synod in convention commend the Ministry to the Armed Forces for providing clear supervision and support for our chaplains.

**Action:** Adopted (4)

(The resolution as presented by the committee was adopted without discussion [Yes: 1,102; No: 13].)

**To Give Thanks and Commend the  
Lutheran Women's Missionary League for 65 Years of Service**

**RESOLUTION 1-07**

**Report 1-02 (CW, p. 46)**

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Women's Missionary League has been "Serv[ing] the Lord with Gladness" for 65 years; and

WHEREAS, The LWML has in its 65 years provided millions of dollars through mites for missionary work in the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS, The LWML has supported The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod World Relief and Human Care in supplying health kits for Hurricane Katrina and Rita survivors; and

WHEREAS, The LWML has held a *Leadership for Tomorrow* event, and such leadership training has continued in the districts, impacting their target for supporting new leaders; and

WHEREAS, The delegates to the 2005 LWML convention in Tampa, Florida, voted approval of a mission goal of \$1,625,000; and

WHEREAS, The LWML has trained a new group of women as Mission-Ministry Vision Consultants; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention thank God for the 65 years of mission service around the world and the missionary leadership the LWML has provided in our Synod; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the LCMS in its 2007 convention commend the LWML for its primary target goals for the 2005–2007 biennium of Personal Spiritual Living, Partnering for Diversity, Servant Response, and Supporting Leaders and for its 2005–2007 Mission Grants.

**Action:** Adopted (4)

(The resolution as presented by the committee was adopted without discussion [Yes: 1,070; No: 27].)

## To Commend Lutheran Hour Ministries for Its Faithful Mission Focus

### RESOLUTION 1-08

#### Report 1-03 (CW, pp. 47–49)

WHEREAS, Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) is a Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church*; and

WHEREAS, LHM has been a pioneer in the use of technology in outreach ministry; and

WHEREAS, More than one million people per year respond to LHM's radio and TV programming and congregational outreach efforts, and nearly 80,000 people are referred to churches where they can be warmly welcomed into the family of God; and

WHEREAS, LHM has committed itself to sharing the Good News of Jesus with 25 million unreached people in connection with the *Ablaze!* movement; and

WHEREAS, LHM continues to develop new ways, tools, and strategies in assisting congregations to reach the unreached in their communities; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Synod in convention commend LHM for its consistent mission focus and its pioneering efforts in adapting technology to the service of the Gospel; and be it further

*Resolved*, That we encourage LHM in its five-year strategic plan of developing additional resources for congregational outreach; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That we encourage the congregations and members of the LCMS to continue to support LHM and make use of its resources to reach the unreached in their communities.

**Action:** Adopted (10)

(The resolution as presented by the committee was adopted without discussion [Yes: 735; No: 95].)

## To Report Detailed Accounting of Fan into Flame Funds

### RESOLUTION 1-09

#### Overtures 1-13–14 (CW, pp. 136–137)

WHEREAS, 2004 Res. 1-04 committed the LCMS to a \$100 million fund-raising effort to support the *Ablaze!* initiatives; and

WHEREAS, The fund-raising effort is now known as *Fan Into Flame*, and more than \$20 million in cash and pledges has already been entrusted to the movement; and

WHEREAS, The Synod's Board for Mission Services is charged with gathering and dispersing these funds; and

WHEREAS, A detailed report to the congregations is being issued at this convention; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That a detailed annual report of the *Fan Into Flame* funds be written by the Synod's Board for Mission Services, to be published throughout the Synod.

**Action:** Adopted (6)

(The resolution as presented by the committee was adopted without discussion [Yes: 1,094; No: 62].)



**To Encourage Creative Partnerships Between Districts and Congregations  
and LCMS Sister and Partner Churches**

**RESOLUTION 1-10**

**Report 1-8, Part II (TB, pp. 14–25); Report 1-01 (CW, pp. 39–45)**

WHEREAS, Sister and partner church bodies of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod strive to remain faithful to the Scriptures and the Confessions, face unique spiritual challenges, and lack material resources to advance the mission of the church; and

WHEREAS, We encourage our sister and partner churches in their faithful proclamation of the Word; and

WHEREAS, Several of our districts have arrangements to work with sister and partner churches of the LCMS; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we encourage all districts, individuals, congregations, institutions, organizations, and auxiliaries of the LCMS through the Board for Mission Services to support our sister and partner churches through prayer, sharing resources, communicating, and encouraging each other through visits and financial means; and be it further

*Resolved*, That we encourage all these entities in coordination with the Board for Mission Services to team with other sister and partner church congregations in praying for each other, sharing resources, communicating, and encouraging each other in the work the Lord has placed us here to do.

**Action:** Adopted (10)

(During discussion, the committee agreed to changes to the first resolve by inserting “individuals, congregations, institutions, organizations, and auxiliaries” after “districts,” and to the second resolve by replacing “congregations within these districts” with “all these entities.” The resolution was adopted as changed [Yes: 768; No: 57].)

**To Continue Assessing LCMS Campus Ministry  
and its Association with the ELCA**

**RESOLUTION 1-11**

**Report 1-8, Part I (CW, pp. 1–11); Overtures 1-15–16 (CW, p. 137)**

WHEREAS, The 2001 LCMS convention (Res. 3-21A) asked that the current cooperative pastoral arrangements with the Evangelical Church of America (ELCA) be evaluated by the Praesidium, with the results and recommendations reported to the next convention of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The 2004 LCMS convention report of the Praesidium recommended that the Praesidium of the LCMS continue to assess pastoral working arrangements with the ELCA during the next triennium and report to the next convention of the Synod (2007) whether at that time these arrangements merit continuance or whether developments within the ELCA justify other action; and

WHEREAS, The 2004 LCMS convention (Res. 3-07) requested that the President of the Synod report to the next convention of the Synod any recommendations concerning changes in joint activity with the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, The President of the Synod has reported that “[a]t this time there are no recommendations for convention consideration regarding any changes in joint activity with the ELCA...I believe it is important for me to state my ongoing impression that, at many levels, the ELCA continues to demonstrate a vastly different understanding of the authority of Holy Scripture and interpretation of the Lutheran Confessions than does The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod” (CW, p. 8); therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the 2007 LCMS convention commend our faithful LCMS campus pastors and other workers serving in campus ministries for maintaining confessional integrity in providing Word and Sacrament ministry to those college students under their spiritual care; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Praesidium continue to assess the LCMS campus ministries and their association with the ELCA and report to the next convention of the Synod (2010) any suggested changes.

**Action:** Adopted (10)

(During discussion, a motion to amend the resolution by deleting from the final whereas paragraph the words, “I believe it is important for me to state my ongoing impression that, at many levels, the ELCA continues to demonstrate a vastly different understanding of the authority of Holy Scripture and interpretation of the Lutheran Confessions than does The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod” (CW, p. 8),” failed, and the resolution was adopted as presented by the committee [Yes: 689; No: 137].)

**To Commend International Church Partners  
and Worldwide Mission Effort**

**RESOLUTION 1-13**

**Report 1-01 (CW, pp. 39–45)**

WHEREAS, Our gracious God has blessed us with Gospel-centered and mission-minded partner churches around the world; and

WHEREAS, Leaders of these partner churches are gathered with us at this convention and for the international *Ablaze!* movement meetings; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Synod in convention joyfully thank God for His many blessings in raising up these partner churches; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Synod commend them for their faithful work in Christ's mission; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That the Synod commit itself to prayer and support for these partners.

**Action:** Adopted (10)

(The resolution as presented by the committee was adopted without discussion [Yes: 1,006; No: 14].)