

## **Resolutions to the 2008 New England Synod Assembly**

### **08-01 RESOLUTION ON THE BOOK OF FAITH INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS all the baptized when they affirm their baptism promise “to hear the Word of God” and “to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed”;

WHEREAS all parents and sponsors covenant to place the holy scriptures in the hands of their children and nurture them in faith and prayer;

WHEREAS pastors at their ordination vow to be diligent in their study of the Holy Scriptures;

WHEREAS the ELCA has begun a Book of Faith Initiative inviting everyone to join the conversation, to make a commitment, and to become part of the initiative (see <http://www.elca.org/bookoffaith>).

BE IT RESOLVED, that we become a "Book of Faith" synod, committing ourselves to live in and from the Word of God in all our meetings, assemblies and events, so that as we regularly and increasingly hear, read, study, share and are engaged by God's Word, we lead by example in faithful service and holy living;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bishop of our synod – who “as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church” – in coordination with our synod Book of Faith advocate lead this initiative personally and through collaborative programmatic work with congregations of the synod;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all voting members of this synod assembly covenant together to begin a regular practice of Bible study and prayer, gathering with others in their congregation and/or community to speak and hear the Word from one another;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we celebrate and continue to support and strengthen those places where Scripture is already taught and engaged, such as Women of the ELCA Bible studies, camping and campus ministries, lay schools, congregational councils, Sunday school and other congregational groups.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage all congregations to become a “Book of Faith” congregation, which will find expression by

- exploring new opportunities for engaging the Bible,
- sending sufficient numbers of members to synod events for training as Bible study leaders,
- including biblical study as an integral part of all meetings and groups, in order to become more fluent in the first language of faith – the language of Scripture – that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Word.

Respectfully Submitted, Ted Asta

## **08-02 RESOLUTION FOR YOUTH REPRESENTATION AT SYNOD ASSEMBLIES**

WHEREAS, the voice of youth is highly-valued in the Evangelical Church in America; and

WHEREAS, the life and views of youth are an integral part of fulfilling the Church's Mission; and

WHEREAS, youth are not just the future leaders of the church, but present leaders; and

WHEREAS, involvement in the church and decision making gives youth a vested interest in the life of the church, builds leadership, and forms faith; and

WHEREAS, synods should be positive models for congregation in the inclusion of youth; and

WHEREAS, the Exemplary Youth Ministry study, directed by Rev. Dr. Roland Martinson, Luther Seminary, indicates that youth who are integrated into the life and culture of the congregation beyond youth group are more likely to stay connected to a faith community between the years of 16-30; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of youth creates a healthy cross-generational community; and

WHEREAS, 1 Timothy 4:12 states "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." and

WHEREAS, the New England Synod's Vision Statement calls us to "Link every seeker and youth, every pastor and congregation, with partners in faith and mission";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in addition to the voting members congregations send to synod assemblies, each congregation may send a confirmed youth or young adult up to the age of 25 who is a voting member of their congregation; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the by-laws of the synod be amended to reflect this addition of voting members to assembly.

Submitted April 16, 2008

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The Get Drenched Team

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Karl Ogren, Calumet

Steven Kennedy, Ministry Specialist – Youth/Young Adult

### **08-03 RESOLUTION ON WORKING TO END THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR**

WHEREAS, the United States government has called the ongoing killing in Darfur, which has claimed the lives of more than 400,000 people, by its rightful name, “genocide,” and

WHEREAS, such a calculated campaign of slaughter, rape, starvation and displacement has not been seen since the Rwanda genocide of 1994, and

WHEREAS, the United Nations has called the situation in Darfur “the worst humanitarian crisis on the planet,” and

WHEREAS, there are 4.3 million conflict-affected people in Darfur in need of humanitarian aid (food and potable water) and only 2.5 million are reachable by aid organizations because of increased insecurity, and

WHEREAS, the Sudanese government refuses to allow the deployment of sufficient peacekeepers to guarantee the safety of the people of Darfur and continues to support the “Janjaweed” militias who kill, rape, and brutalize the people of Darfur, and

WHEREAS, the United States and other countries could do a great deal more to pressure the Sudanese government to stop the genocide and allow peacekeepers into Darfur without using military force, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that this Synod in Assembly exhort our congregations to pray for the people of Darfur, the relief efforts, and for the peace process; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Synod in Assembly encourage the congregations of the New England Synod to learn about Darfur and request that our congregations and individual members consider sending messages to their respective federal government leaders to encourage them to take stronger measures towards achieving peace in Darfur; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Synod in Assembly request that the Bishop of the New England Synod communicate with the members of Congress representing congregations of the territory of this Synod, and request that they support funding for humanitarian relief, for peacekeepers and to support the peace process in Darfur; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Synod in Assembly request that the Reverend Mark Hanson, the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the President of the Lutheran World Federation, make advocating for peace in Darfur a priority and communicate the importance of advocating for peace in Darfur and supporting relief efforts in Darfur to the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to the members of the Lutheran World Federation, and to the Heads of State and leaders of government whom he often has the opportunity to meet.

Submitted by Trinity Lutheran Church Congregational Council, Vernon, CT