

Biennial Synod Assemblies

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) states that, *“Each synod shall have a Synod Assembly, which shall be its highest legislative authority, and which shall meet at least biennially.”* (10.40); and

WHEREAS, it is reported that other synods within the ELCA have adopted a policy of holding Synod Assemblies on a biennial rather than annual schedule; and

WHEREAS, Synod Assemblies are costly in terms of money and time; and

WHEREAS, the nature of a Synod Assembly tends to limit rather than encourage broad participation of the lay membership of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Worship/Learning/Fellowship events such as the, “Walking Together: A Congregational Resource Event”, held in Chippewa Falls in March of 2010, was much more accessible to a greater number of congregational members; and

WHEREAS, these Worship/Learning/Fellowship events tend to empower congregations who are seeking to be missional by helping them to be truly innovative as they seek to navigate the postmodern cultural landscape closely tethered to God’s story*; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin take the necessary steps to transition the synod from an annual to biennial assembly schedule augmented in alternate years by one day Worship/Learning/Fellowship events; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin memorialize the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2011 to encourage all synods of the ELCA to consider biennial assemblies.

Respectfully submitted, May 17, 2010

Rev. David Anderson – Immanuel Lutheran – Eau Claire

Rev. Alan Buresh – University Lutheran – Eau Claire

Rev. Thomas Bryan – Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd – Eau Claire

Rev. Nathan Aaseng – St. John’s Lutheran – Eau Claire

Rev. Heather Wigdahl – Trinity Lutheran – Eau Claire

Rev. James Page – Trinity Lutheran – Eau Claire

Rev. Kurt Jacobson – Trinity Lutheran – Eau Claire

Rev. Randy Olson – Hope Lutheran – Eau Claire

Rev. Scott Miller – First Lutheran – Eau Claire

Rev. Rolf Nestingen – Grace Lutheran – Eau Claire

Rev. David Irgens – Grace Lutheran – Eau Claire

*From Bishop Pederson’s Keynote address, Walking Together event, Chippewa Falls, WI March 20, 2010. nswwi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/dcp_keynote.pdf