

**Subject: Resolution Supporting the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Women**

**Source: Hope Lutheran, Sioux Falls**

**Whereas**, in 1970, the Lutheran Church in America and the American Lutheran Church both voted to ordain women, and the year 2020 will mark the 50th anniversary of those historic decisions; and,

**Whereas**, women have a long history of serving in ministry, and conversations about official recognition of their gifts extend back to the beginnings of the church; and,

**Whereas**, on the 45th anniversary of the ordination of Lutheran women in the United States, Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) said; "I give thanks for my sisters who were the first women pastors," and "I give thanks for all women in ministry. We are doing what Mary, the mother of our Lord, and Mary Magdalene did before us – proclaiming the gospel."; and,

**Whereas**, some 77 percent of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) member churches ordain women, and LWF General Secretary Martin Junge said the global communion "is committed to an understanding of the ordained ministry as an office that is inclusive for both men and women."; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Synod create a committee to plan for the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Women. This committee would be charged to create ways to assist the synod and member congregations in their recognition of the anniversary in 2020; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Synod create a designated account for congregations to give toward for the funding of a celebration and recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women in ministry; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that congregations and individuals be encouraged give special gifts earmarked for the recruitment of women in ministry to the South Dakota Synod "Listen God is Calling" fund for leadership recruitment and that any funds remaining from the celebration and recognition be added to these special gifts; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that congregations be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of female clergy through prayer and blessings using worship resources from the ELCA designed for the recognition; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, to direct the South Dakota Synod Council to make women in ministry and equity issues the theme of the 2020 South Dakota Synod assembly in order to give thanks to God for the work of female clergy in South Dakota, express this synod's commitment to provide ongoing support for gender equality in South Dakota, and encourage the congregations and the members of the congregations of the South Dakota Synod to provide regular and ongoing support for female clergy in South Dakota.