

Resolution #: 3b
Recommendation: Do Not Pass
Action Taken:

Subject: Resolution Supporting the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women

Source: Crossroads Conference

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 50th 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 the celebration and recognition as well as to assist with the recruitment of women in leadership and ministry; 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,