

Resolution: 1
Recommendation: DO PASS
Action Taken: _____

Subject: South Dakota Synod “Appeal for Mission and Leadership”
Source: Synod Council

WHEREAS, the vision of the South Dakota Synod is “that all may be fed” as we proclaim the good news to every hungry soul, share compassion with all who suffer, and feed all whose bodies lack nourishment; and

WHEREAS, investment in rostered and lay leadership, keeping congregations healthy and growing and embracing new opportunities for growth in mission are essential parts of an effective strategy in realizing our vision; and

WHEREAS, research has shown an increasing downward trend in people seeking rostered leadership and evidence that investment in new and renewing congregations increases the capacity of the whole church to reach out effectively to our changing world; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Synod Council approved a draft proposal and authorized a feasibility study for an “Appeal for Leadership and Mission;” and

WHEREAS, the results of the feasibility study indicated strong support of the strategy outlined in the “Proposed Appeal for Leadership and Mission” along with the potential of raising \$2.5 million or more in cash through an initial three-year appeal with the further potential of raising, over subsequent years, an additional amount of \$3.8million in planned (estate) gifts; and

WHEREAS, the executive Leadership of the Church wide organization of the ELCA has affirmed that the South Dakota Synod’s “Appeal for Leadership and Mission” is a worthy and valid way of supporting the denomination’s “Always Being Made New” campaign therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly strongly affirm moving forward with the “Appeal for Leadership and Mission,” and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations of the South Dakota Synod support the “Appeal for Leadership and Mission” through prayer, volunteer assistance and through a special congregational campaign to be conducted sometime in 2015-2016; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the \$2.5 million in cash raised during the three year appeal be allocated in the following manner: \$350,000 for capital projects at Woyatan in Rapid City; \$200,000 to fund the first 4 years of a permanent position on the synod staff dedicated to the recruitment of rostered leaders; \$100,000 start-up funding for a new Life-long Academy for Rostered and Lay Leaders; \$200,000 for the first 4 years of additional seminarian debt reduction; \$103,000 for New and Renewing Congregations; \$217,000 as a tithe (after campaign expenses) 2/3 to the to the ELCA’s “Always Being Made New” campaign and 1/3 to Luther Seminary; \$330,000 for campaign expenses; and \$1 million for the start-up contribution toward a \$4.8 million endowed fund that would support the new initiatives in perpetuity.