

RESOLUTION 11.03

REGARDING SUPPORT OF LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

WHEREAS, Young adults ages 18-29¹ are among the most absent population in our worshipping communities and Lutheran Campus Ministry serves alongside the colleges and universities where large numbers of young adults are engaged in higher education; and

WHEREAS, A significant number of professional leaders in the ELCA cite Lutheran Campus Ministry as instrumental in assisting them in their call to professional ministry in this church; and

WHEREAS, Longitudinal research regarding the factors that encourage young adults to remain committed to ministry in this church by Dr. Roland Martinson² includes campus ministry as one of the key factors in sustaining a young adult's faith; and

WHEREAS, The ELCA Social Statement on Education (*Our Calling in Education* was adopted as amended by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly by a vote of 949-35)³ reminds us that Martin Luther "taught that education served the common good of Church and society: In a move unusual for his day, he taught that schools for all—both those who were wealthy and those who were poor, both boys and girls—were necessary so that the Church would have learned and faithful pastors and the civil community would have wise and good rulers."; and

WHEREAS, *Our Calling in Education* states that "the calling in education belongs to this whole church. Individuals, families, congregations, early childhood education centers and schools, colleges and universities, seminaries, outdoor ministries, campus ministries, lifelong learning centers, publishing ministry, social ministry organizations, synods, and the churchwide organization all participate in this calling."; and

WHEREAS, *Our Calling in Education* "calls the ELCA in light of our faith to engage, deliberate, and act with respect to four contexts: home and congregation, public education, this church's educational institutions, and public colleges and universities. Our calling in relationship to the fourth context in education is to support public higher education to serve the common good and rejoice in the faithful presence of campus ministry in public colleges and universities; therefore be it

¹ http://www.usatoday.com/news/religion/2010-04-27-1Amillfaith27_ST_N.htm

² <http://www3.ptsem.edu/Offices/ConEd/IYM/lectures/2004/Martinson-Life.pdf>

³ <http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements/Education.aspx>

RESOLVED:

- 1. That** the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA encourages its congregations and individuals to support the mission of Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Minnesota-Morris, Saint Cloud State University-Saint Cloud, and Southwest Minnesota State University-Marshall, the affiliated campus ministry at Ridgewater College-Willmar and the partner congregations through intentional education about the mission of campus ministry, by holding the campus ministries in prayer through a Campus Ministry Sunday at least once a year, and selecting at least one campus ministry site for intentional financial support; and
- 2. That** Lutheran Campus Ministry sites be encouraged to create materials and programs for synodical use which:
 - a. provide education materials and information about Lutheran Campus Ministry,
 - b. raise awareness about Lutheran Campus Ministry,
 - c. focus on the needs of young adults on college and university campuses,
 - d. seek to increase awareness of Lutheran Campus Ministry's mission,
 - e. create partnerships between campus ministry settings and congregations; and
- 3. That** these partnerships seek to strengthen funding for Lutheran Campus Ministry and its mission in this synod*; and
- 4. That** the Southwestern Minnesota Synod memorialize the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to encourage, support, and strengthen its relationship to Lutheran Campus Ministry across the ELCA.

**Resolution 09.05: RESOLVED, That the Southwestern Minnesota Synod welcome and promote, in collaboration with Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minnesota, this Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minnesota Mission Fund on the territory of this synod.*

*Submitted by the Epiphany Council on behalf of
University Lutheran Church of the Epiphany and Lutheran Campus Ministry, Saint Cloud, MN*