

Resolution 10.03

Regarding the Augsburg Fortress Pension Plan Termination

WHEREAS, “Social statements establish policy for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s (ELCA) work in the areas of advocacy and corporate social responsibility, enabling, limiting, and directing these activities.’ (Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns, p.13). Social policy resolutions serve the same function”; and

WHEREAS, in 1999 the ELCA adopted a social statement on economic life, *Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All*, which states, “...God is at work in economic life. Economic life is intended to be a means through which God's purposes for humankind and creation are to be served. When this does not occur, as a church we cannot remain silent because of who and whose we are”; and

WHEREAS, that statement further says, “*We commit ourselves* as a church to...provide adequate pension and health benefits, safe and healthy work conditions, sufficient periods of rest, vacation, and sabbatical, and family-friendly work schedules”; and

WHEREAS, Augsburg Fortress Publishers [legally incorporated as “The Publishing House of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America”], a unit of this church, has terminated its defined benefit pension plan, limiting or reducing the expected benefits; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Southwestern Minnesota Synod at its 2010 Assembly request the ELCA Church Council to search for ways to provide adequate pensions for those who are the past, present, and retired employees of Augsburg Fortress Publishers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Southwestern Minnesota Synod at its 2010 Assembly request the ELCA Church Council to investigate the pension funds of all units and agencies under the ELCA umbrella to reduce the possibility of a pension plan failure.

Submitted by the Crow River Conference and the Minnesota Valley Conference