

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 the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly requests the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to conduct a review of the actions of management and trustees of Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, regarding the background of, reasons for, and implications of the termination of its defined benefits pension plan, and to report on the results of the review at the November 2010 meeting of the Church Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and possible action.