

## **Resolution 07.06**

### **Regarding the Pursuit of Unity Among Lutherans**

WHEREAS the Scriptures enjoin us to “lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (*Ephesians 4:1-3*); and

WHEREAS the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) states: “To participate in God’s mission, this church shall manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.” (*ELCA Constitution - Section 4.02.f.*); and

WHEREAS the ELCA already shares with other Lutheran church bodies a common history in the Reformation, a respect for the primacy of the Word, and a common subscription to the Lutheran confessions; and

WHEREAS we are called by God in Christ to move beyond the historical divisions among us and “bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you” (*Colossians 3:13*);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA encourage its members and congregations to concentrate on finding ways to live together faithfully with other Lutheran Christians in the midst of disagreements, recognizing the God-given mission and communion we share as members of the body of Christ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Southwestern Minnesota Synod encourage its members and congregations to engage in constructive dialogue, service, fellowship, and educational opportunities with congregations of other Lutheran Christians by supporting cooperative ventures and projects with members of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS), Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), and other Lutheran church bodies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southwestern Minnesota Synod affirm and support those ELCA members and congregations who seek to maintain their ~~relationship~~ connections with other Lutheran Christians, especially with our brothers and sisters who are no longer a part of the ELCA, by “bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Submitted by Faith Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, Minnesota