

Resolution # 1—Book of Faith Initiative Synod Assembly Resolution

Whereas all the baptized promise when they affirm their baptism, “to hear the Word of God” and “to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed”; and

Whereas all parents and sponsors covenant to place the holy scriptures in the hands of their children and nurture them in faith and prayer; and

Whereas pastors, deaconesses, diaconal ministers, and associates in ministry vow at their ordination, consecration, or commissioning to be diligent in their study of the Holy Scriptures; and

Whereas the ELCA has begun a Book of Faith Initiative inviting everyone to join the conversation, make a commitment, and become part of the initiative (see <http://www.elca.org/bookoffaith/overview/>):

Therefore, be it resolved that we become a “Book of Faith” synod, committing ourselves to live in and from the Word of God in our preparations to teach and preach, as well as personally in our daily devotional practices, so that as we regularly and increasingly hear, read, study, share, and are engaged by God’s Word, we lead by example in faithful service and holy living; and

Be it further resolved that the bishop of our synod—who “as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church”—in coordination with the Book of Faith advocates appointed by the bishop, encourage this initiative both personally and through collaborative programmatic work with congregations of the synod; and

Be it further resolved that all voting members of this synod assembly covenant together to engage in a regular practice of Bible study and prayer, gathering with others in their congregation and/or community to speak and hear the Word from one another; and

Be it further resolved that we celebrate and continue to support and strengthen those places where Scripture is already taught and embraced, such as Women of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, Lutheran Youth Organization, Lutheran preschools, elementary, middle and high schools, congregational councils, Sunday schools, confirmation, adult education, and other congregational groups; Lutheran Social Service organization; and institutions of the church including The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Muhlenberg College, and Bear Creek Camp; and

Be it further resolved that we encourage all congregations to become a “Book of Faith” congregation, which will find expression by

- Registering with the ELCA as a Book of Faith congregation,
- Exploring new opportunities for engaging the Bible,
- Sending lay people to synod events for training as Bible study leaders, and
- Including biblical study and reflection as an integral part of all meetings and groups,

in order to become more fluent in the first language of faith—the language of Scripture—that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Word.

The Committee on Reference and Counsel recommends approval of the resolution.