

**Presented for Consideration of the  
2006 Central States Synod Assembly**

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**Resolution SA 06.01  
RESOLUTION SEEKING AUGSBURG FORTRESS MATERIALS  
RELATING TO THE NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS TOOL**

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WHEREAS, the Natural Church Development (NCD) analysis of thousands of Christian congregations has resulted in identifying eight key qualities of a healthy faith community which is a vital center for mission and ministry; and

WHEREAS, NCD has developed a survey tool to help congregations build such ministries which inspire growth in numbers and spiritual maturity through recognizing stronger and weaker areas in relation to these eight qualities; and

WHEREAS, NCD has a promising approach which does not endeavor to provide a new program based on human effort, but seeks the development of ministries through the releasing of the God-given potential which God has already uniquely placed within each congregation; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), through its Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Churchwide Unit, has adopted NCD for assisting congregations; and

WHEREAS, the Central States Synod (CSS) Outreach Strategy Team has evaluated NCD to be a most effective tool and endorses the current effort to train coaches in the CSS to work with congregations in this regard; and

WHEREAS, many ELCA congregations will likely be utilizing NCD and in need of Lutheran theologically-based materials which correspond with the NCD tool, particularly as these congregations address their "minimum factor" (their weakest of the eight characteristics);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Central States Synod in Assembly ask the Synod Council of the Central States Synod to ask the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to communicate to the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Churchwide Unit the concerns and recommendations of this resolution with encouragement for that unit to work in cooperation with Augsburg Fortress Publishing to develop resources that can be utilized by ELCA congregations using the NCD tool, focusing on the eight quality characteristics for healthy congregations and the minimum factor concept.

Submitted by: Central States Synod Outreach Strategy Team

Endorsed by:

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: **Adoption**

Date: April 29, 2006

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2006 Central States Synod Assembly**

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**Resolution SA 06.02  
RESOLUTION REGARDING CANDIDACY PROCESS**

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WHEREAS, the call to God's ministry is answered by men and women willing to sacrifice and serve; and

WHEREAS, these potential candidates are required to follow a process of interviews and assessments which help identify their readiness for seminary; and

WHEREAS, potential candidates risk sacrificing opportunities for alternative educational resources, loss of health benefits, expenses, and more in the event they are not accepted in seminary; and

WHEREAS, the Synod, including congregations, staff and the candidacy committee have a responsibility to minimize the impact of hardship for potential candidates in the event a potential candidate is not accepted to seminary;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that deadline dates for assessments and interviews and any process that is part of the candidates' acceptance into seminary, and a deadline date for a written notice of acceptance or non-acceptance, shall be established no later than three months prior to the beginning of a candidate's expected entry into seminary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the deadline dates established shall be clearly published on applications, information brochures, websites and other forms of communication.

Submitted by: Julia Forbes

Endorsed by:

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: **This resolution will not be reported to the Assembly as it goes against established ELCA procedures.**

- To address the concerns expressed by this resolution, the Resolutions Committee encourages:
- the synodical Candidacy Committee to publicize the dates of meetings
  - all potential candidates to submit their applications at least three months in advance of the meeting at which they hope to meet with the committee, and
  - pastors to submit their congregational responses promptly when notified of a parishoner's application.

Date: April 29, 2006

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**Resolution SA 06.03  
A MEMORIAL REGARDING THE SCHEDULING OF SYNOD ASSEMBLIES**

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WHEREAS, the Apology to the Augsburg Confession states: "We do not abolish the Mass but religiously retain and defend it. Among us the Mass is celebrated *every Lord's day* and on other festivals, when the sacrament is made available to those who wish to partake of it ..." (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, in 1997 the ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted *THE USE OF THE MEANS OF GRACE: A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament*, which states: "THE HOLY COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED WEEKLY (Principle 35). According to the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, *Lutheran congregations celebrate the Holy Communion every Sunday and festival*. This Confession remains the norm for our practice." (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, in the ordination service of the ELCA, pastoral candidates promise to preach and teach in accordance with Lutheran Confessions; and

WHEREAS when an Assembly of the Central States Synod is scheduled over a Sunday, clergy in attendance are unable to preside at the Sacrament of the Altar in their home congregation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that out of concern to be faithful to the Lutheran Confessions; out of concern to be faithful to the document "The Use of the Means of Grace," and out of concern to support the ordination vows of our pastors, the Central States Synod shall no longer schedule Synod Assemblies on Sundays.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Peter C. Jacobson  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, ELCA  
Wichita, KS

Endorsed by:

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee:

**No recommendation**

It is the feeling of the Resolutions Committee that each individual pastor, based on the needs of his/her parish of call, should be free to make a decision whether to forgo Sunday worship with the Assembly in order to return to their parish of call, and that this matter should not be subject to Assembly mandate.

The Committee recognizes and affirms that the worship of the Assembly is also a significant expression of the gathered body of Christ which deserves attendance and support.

Date:

April 29, 2006

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**Resolution SA 06.04  
EPIPHANY SEASON 2007**

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**BACKGROUND:**

1. The "Statement of Purpose" (S6.01) of the Constitution of the Central States Synod of the ELCA reads, "The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world;" and
2. The "Statement of Purpose" (S6.02), also, states that "to participate in God's mission, this Synod as a part of the Church shall: (b) Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness, (c) Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs, (e) Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world, (f) Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives;" and
3. The "Statement of Purpose" also, states that to fulfill these purposes, this synod shall (S6.03) (e.) 3) provide leadership and encouragement of congregations in their evangelism efforts, and
4. The Epiphany Season of the Church Year looks ahead to the mission of the Church to the world in light of the Nativity, as people are called upon to remember the coming of the Magi, who brought gifts to the Christ Child, and, by so doing, revealed Jesus to the world as LORD and KING; and
5. The ELCA has developed a model for approaching mission, that of "accompaniment," meaning "mutual respect," wherein each party to the relationship has the primary responsibility for mission in its area while walking together in mutual support as each carries out its mission responsibilities, thereby challenging old assumptions formerly held in regard to doing "for" instead of "with" others;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Central States Synod designates the 2007 Epiphany Season as a "season of global awareness" for the Synod; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that congregations, area ministries, and members of the Central States Synod are encouraged to nurture, develop, and celebrate our Companion Synod relationships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea-Kotte District and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Russia and Other States, with primary focus on eastern Russia; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that congregations are encouraged to designate Global Mission/Companion Synod Sundays, host international guests (including students), correspond with people in the mission fields, volunteer for short-term global mission service, utilize global worship materials (liturgy, prayers, songs), and designate special offerings to support global ministries; and

SA 06.04  
Epiphany Season 2007  
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each area ministry is encouraged to develop an ongoing global mission strategy of 'accompaniment' to be emphasized during Epiphany. The Companion Synod Team will offer resources to utilize in this celebration.

Submitted by:

Endorsed by:

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: **Adoption**

Date: April 29, 2006

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**Resolution SA 06.05  
ELECTRONIC MEETINGS FOR  
CENTRAL STATES SYNOD COMMITTEES**

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WHEREAS, many businesses, organizations and individuals utilize electronic communication technology;

WHEREAS, the practice of conducting meetings and voting in a "virtual" setting is now commonplace;

WHEREAS, meetings via electronic mechanisms can conserve resources of time and money;

WHEREAS, the Tenth Edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* does not adequately address the issues of procedures for electronic meetings and voting via alternative media;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following guidelines be recommended for use by committees holding electronically enhanced meetings (e-meetings). An e-meeting may be synchronous, such as a teleconference or videoconference, in which all participants communicate simultaneously. An e-meeting may be asynchronous, such as by e-mail or fax, in which each person does not participate at the same time.

1. All participants must have access to the necessary equipment for participation in the e-meeting. During a synchronous meeting, all participants must be able to simultaneously hear and/or see in order to participate during the e-meeting. A member participating in an e-meeting by this means is deemed to be present in person at the e-meeting. Participants shall try, as much as possible, to eliminate background noise during the e-meeting, i.e., radio, television, music, appliances, and side conversations. Participants shall not place the telephone on hold if the system has music or messages playing while in that mode.
2. Regular committee meetings may be held via e-meetings.
3. Special committee meetings may be held via e-meetings called as designated in the bylaws, by the presiding officer or committee chairman, or by a certain number of members.
4. The presiding officer or committee chairman shall develop an agenda and timeframe for the e-meeting.
5. A minimum notice of one calendar week shall be provided to all participants via personal delivery, e-mail, fax, or telephone by the chairman. Such notice shall include the agenda and supporting documentation for business to be conducted at the e-meeting. If notice is via e-mail or fax, participants shall be required to check their messages at specified intervals and respond within a specified time whether or not they are able to attend.
6. A majority of the committee members shall constitute a quorum for an e-meeting and, once established, shall be assumed present until the e-meeting is adjourned.
7. The committee chairman shall call the e-meeting to order at the designated time. Members are deemed present when they respond to the request for sign-in.

8. Procedures shall be determined by the type of meeting.

In a synchronous meeting, the chairman shall announce each agenda item in order. An agreed means of seeking and according recognition to speak should be established, taking into account the size of the meeting and the technology available. If this is not feasible, the following process may be employed: Each member shall be called upon (by predetermined order) to speak. The member may speak in debate, offer a motion, or pass. After each member has had an opportunity to speak the first time, the chairman shall call upon each member to speak further in debate, offer a motion, or pass. By unanimous consent, a third opportunity to speak may be offered.

In an asynchronous meeting, the committee chairman shall post each agenda item in order. Any member may then post a motion. Then other members may post debate. At a predetermined time, the committee chairman puts the question to a vote. Members have a limited time to cast their votes, and once cast, the vote cannot be changed. The chairman announces the result of the vote.

During an asynchronous meeting, the committee shall establish how many motions can be under consideration at one time, which specific secondary motions may be offered, and which motions that bring a question again before the assembly will be allowed during an e-meeting,

9. If the meeting will be conducted by telephone or other electronic means, the notice of the meeting shall identify the mode by which the meeting will be conducted and the designated location where the public may observe and attend or otherwise be aware of the content of the meeting, if open. In addition to other postings, notice of the meeting will be posted on the synod's website.
10. Board procedures for minutes shall be the same for e-meetings as for face-to-face meetings. Committees should designate a member to prepare a memorandum of each e-meeting.

Submitted by: The Resolutions Committee

Endorsed by:

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: **Adoption**

Date: April 29, 2006