

Central States Synod 2020 Synod Assembly

June 5, 2020

2019 Central States Synod Assembly Actions

Number	Subject	Action
SA 19.01	<p>Resolution to become “Green Congregations” Congregations encouraged to become “green Congregations” by forming Green team that will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate building and grounds & take at least two steps each year to reduce impact on environment 2. Education & encourage members to help care for God’s creation 3. Encourage person “green discipleship” and actions <p>Communicate with & respond to work of CSS LRC Mission Table</p>	Adopted – work with LRC for communication plan and resources
SA 19.02	<p>Lutheran Senior Services Provide bulletin inserts and prayer petitions for the third week of September 2019</p>	Adopted – information to be sent out through synod communications
SA19.03	<p>Bethany Lutheran Home Association Sunday Resolved that Bethany Home Sunday be observed on March 1, 2020, in support of our mission as a ministry partner of the ELCA.</p>	Adopted – information to be sent out through synod communications
SA 19.04	<p>Season of Global Awareness – Remembering Companion Synods Designate Epiphany Season – Season of Global Awareness Designate one Sunday in Epiphany – Sunday of Celebration for the Global Church Designate Sunday, October 6, 2019 – Sunday of solidarity with Companion Synod in Russia Designate Sunday, April 26, 2020 – Sunday of solidarity with Companion Synod in Papua New Guinea</p>	Adopted – work with Companion Synod Team for a communication plan
SA19.05	<p>Memorial for Increased Accountability in Cases of Sexual Misconduct Central States Synod memorializes the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to clearly and explicitly renounce sexism and sexual misconduct in all its forms as well as its continued impact on the church and the communities that we serve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct the crafting of “Trustworthy Servants of the People of God” so that it frees and empowers victims of sexual misconduct, who are either in candidacy or rostered, to come forward without fear of being removed from the candidacy process/roster or experiencing other forms of recrimination. • Direct the seminaries and colleges/universities of the ELCA to take steps to increase the visibility of Title IX policies. (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal law that provides: No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.) <p>Commit to a renewed diligence on matters pertaining to sexual misconduct which prevents misconduct from being dismissed or hidden.</p>	Adopted – transmitted memorial to churchwide office
SA19.06	<p>Retirements Express appreciation for those who served</p>	Adopted - Assembly stood and gave applause
SA19.07	<p>Faithful Departed Express appreciation for the lives of the ministers who have died</p>	Adopted – Assembly stood and sang

Resolution SA 20.01
A SEASON OF GLOBAL AWARENESS

Remembering our Companion Synods

Because it is vitally important for the people, the congregations and the leadership of the Central States Synod to be aware that we are part of a world-wide community of faith that is called to bear one another's burdens, share our unique gifts with one another and both share and receive the unique witness to the gospel that is present in the church as it is embodied in the many different countries, cultures and languages around the world, the Companion Synod Team calls upon the Voting members of the Central States Synod Assembly to adopt the following resolution.

Be it resolved that the Epiphany Season be designated as a "**Season of Global Awareness**" for all congregations within the Central States Synod and that congregations intentionally lift up the church around the world through prayer, song, publicity and in any way appropriate to the context of the congregation.

Be it also resolved that the congregations of the Central States Synod designate at least one Sunday during the Epiphany Season as a "**Sunday of Celebration for the Global Church.**" This Sunday would focus not only on our Companion Synods in Papua New Guinea and Russia, but also the Global Ministry we share in through the Global Mission Arm of the ELCA such as Missionary Sponsorship, Young Adults in Global Mission, and our support of Projects that promote the witness of the Gospel, works of compassion and Justice ministry around the world.

Be it also resolved that **Sunday, October 4th, 2020** shall be designated as a Sunday of solidarity with and prayer for our Companion Synod in Russia, the "Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Urals, Siberia and Far East" (ELCUSFE) with a special focus on the Far Eastern Deanery. *This date was chosen because the first Sunday in October is widely observed by the churches in Russia as a harvest Sunday when they give thanks and celebrate the completion of the fall harvest.*

Be it also resolved that **Sunday, April 18th, 2021** be designated as a Sunday of solidarity with, and prayer for our Companion District, the Kotte District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG). *This date is chosen because it is Easter 3 and we read the account of Jesus appearing to his disciples who were in hiding. His final words to them are, "Thus it is written that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."*

The Central States Synod Companion Synod Team will provide resources for mission education and worship for the Epiphany Season, and additionally, prayer requests, recent news and communications from our Companion Churches prior to the two Companion Synod Sundays to help us to "accompany one another" in our journey as followers, servants and witnesses to Jesus Christ in our respective parts of God's world.

The Companion Synod Team of the Central States Synod – ELCA

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Resolution SA 20.02
Celebration of Mothers and Community

Lutheran Family & Children's Services of Missouri (LFCS) is a not-for-profit social services organization. The organization was founded in 1868 when Lutheran minister Rev. Johann Buenger made a promise to a wounded soldier to care for his son. Soon after was formed a residence for children left homeless after the Civil War was formed. LFCS has made progressive program changes over its 153-year history in order to meet the shifting needs of children and families. Over one million lives have been changed since inception.

With a vision for a future where all children are safe and loved, and through our faith in Jesus Christ, LFCS cares for children, strengthens families and helps build healthy communities.

United in Faith LFCS serves the lost, lonely and confused with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

United in Faith we provide safe, loving homes for children and work to end the cycle of abuse and neglect.

United in Faith we provide counseling to eliminate anxiety, depression, suicidality, and all forms of mental illness.

United in Faith we provide care and support for women experiencing crisis pregnancy.

United in Faith we join together to celebrate mothers. At LFCS, we make every effort to serve women in their role as mothers – biological moms, adoptive moms, foster moms, grandmothers, and other women who are raising the youngest generation.

Therefore, Be it Resolved, all congregations of the Central States Synod will use the provided bulletin inserts and suggested prayer on the weekend of Mother's Day, May 8 & 9, 2021 as a way of strengthening our communities one child and one family at a time.

Submitted by David Eberle, Church and Community Relations Manager, Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri

Resolution SA 20.03
50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women

With gratitude for those who have gone before and hope for the future, the ELCA gives thanks to God for the ministry of women. In 2019 and 2020 we celebrate 50 years of Lutheran women being ordained in the United States, 40 years of women of color being ordained, and 10 years of LGBTQIA+ individuals being able to serve freely.

We lament that women, people of color, and members of the queer community have been barred from serving and have been bullied, dismissed and excluded. We also celebrate the gifts and service these persons have brought to our church and our world as pastors.

Be it resolved that congregations of the Central States Synod are encouraged to commemorate 50 years of ordained women in the church using the resources found at www.elca.org/50yearsofordainedwomen

And be it resolved that congregations of the Central States Synod designate the weekend of July 18 & 19, 2020 (The Festival of Mary Magdalene, the Apostle is July 22) as a time to recognize and celebrate the ministry of women, women of color, and LGBTQIA+ individuals.

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