

Summary of the "Missions" Resolutions

resolution 1-01 to assist congregation outreach (Friday, between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.)

That a fund be established to assist congregations with “seed money” to impact their communities, with the results of all outreach projects being published through the Grapevine and Servant to Servant media so as to encourage other NJD congregations in their mission endeavors

resolution 1-02 to reaffirm the urgency of making disciples (Friday, between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.)

That the congregations of the New Jersey District reaffirm the urgency of making disciples and living out in their congregational ministries the mission statement of the LCMS which is: **“in grateful response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of the LCMS is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities and schools.”**

The resolution highlights the importance of understanding one’s ministry context through studying current demographic data and working in partnership with the District’s Outreach Council so that, together, they might identify creative and fruitful ways to impact their community with the love of Christ.

resolution 1-03 to explore new models of church ministry in order to continue to reach our communities (Friday, between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.)

In light of one of the two reasons that our Synod was formed, that is, it is “our Lord’s will that the diversities of gifts should be for the common profit” (1 Corinthians 12:4-31); therefore it is most appropriate that the New Jersey District encourage, promote and facilitate new ministry options for NJD congregations to yoke together in congregational ministry arrangements that would be served by a variety of church workers (pastors, deaconesses, directors of education, directors of Christian outreach, vicars, and missionaries), along with the priesthood of all believers.

Coupled with this resolve is for the leadership of the New Jersey District to help congregations explore and develop creative ways to manage and steward fruitfully their land and facilities so that their ministry might thrive; essential to this endeavor is for the New Jersey District, through its Leaders and Learners program and the equipping labors of the Outreach Council, to train local leaders for outreach ministry and to learn the current best practices connected with these church models.

resolution 1-04 to overrule CCM Opinion 14-2724¹ (Friday, between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.)

It is the contention of this resolution that CCM (Commission on Constitutional Matters) Opinion 14-2724 incorrectly restricts the mission outreach ministry of LCMS congregations in its efforts “to give bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world” (LCMS Constitution Article III:2) [lines 69-71].

It is the primary resolve of this resolution that LCMS congregations, auxiliaries (such as LWML, LHM, etc.), RSOs (Recognized Service Organizations), and Districts be authorized and empowered to send missionaries and provide funding to those ministries that “give bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and extend that Gospel witness to all the world” and that the NJD, in this Convention, memorialize the Synod in its 2019 Convention to adopt this resolution and to overrule CCM Opinion 14-2724 so that it is declared null and void and of no effect [lines 86-88].

¹ CCM Opinion 14-2724 is included in this mailing for your review