

Resolution to Recreate the Welcome Statement of the Greater Milwaukee Synod

WHEREAS, The Greater Milwaukee Synod voted to become a “Reconciled in Christ” Synod in 1991; and

WHEREAS, Greater Milwaukee Synod Assemblies have repeatedly, in 1991, 1992, 1998, 2009, and 2018, voted to adopt resolutions and memorials consistent with the synod’s status as a Reconciling in Christ Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Milwaukee Synod Council voted in 2022 to undertake an Authentic Diversity Audit, the strategic plan for which was adopted by the Synod Assembly in 2024, including a commitment to deepen and expand our understanding of becoming a more inclusive and diverse church; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Milwaukee Synod’s previous statements of welcome do not fully express our understanding of and commitment to becoming a fully welcoming and inclusive church; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Greater Milwaukee Synod assembly approves the following Welcome Statement:

The Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA celebrates and values each person as formed in the image of God. We seek to follow Jesus by sharing God’s all-encompassing love that invites all people into God’s Beloved Community. We embrace diversity, work toward healing where there has been harm, pursue racial equity, and strive for justice for the LGBTQIA+ community.

We welcome and affirm all people of every race, age, socioeconomic class, culture, sexual and romantic orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, neurotype, relationship status, citizenship and immigration status, background, and experience.

As a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Synod, **we commit ourselves to ongoing education, honest reflection and growth, and the compassion and courage to act.** We walk with rostered ministers, leaders, and worshiping communities as we work to embrace each person’s voice, gifts, and full participation in our synod’s life and ministry. We ask God’s Spirit to guide us in living out the ministry of reconciliation.