

RESOLUTION #3 – Diakonia

(Submitted by Greater Milwaukee Synod Diakonia Steering Committee)

WHEREAS we are commanded to “...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:16-20); and

WHEREAS we are given the command to love one another (“Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another” John 13:34); and

WHEREAS Diakonia is a program of lay theological education designed to prepare Christians to fulfill their baptismal calling as servants of Christ; and

WHEREAS Diakonia prepares Christians of many ages, with different educational backgrounds and different goals, for ministry and servanthood through a two-year process of spiritual and theological formation; and

WHEREAS Diakonia provides systematic training to adults during weekly classes in Bible, church history, theology, and practical ministry; and

WHEREAS Diakonia provides lay adults with opportunities to assess their God-given talents and how best to apply them; and

WHEREAS Diakonia equips lay people to reach, empower and befriend the needy in our midst, feed the hungry and witness to the power of the Gospel; and

WHEREAS the church today is in need of knowledgeable, committed and empowered lay leaders; and

WHEREAS the Greater Milwaukee Synod hosts four Diakonia sites in the Milwaukee area;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that every congregation of the Greater Milwaukee Synod be encouraged to support Greater Milwaukee Synod Diakonia program by the following actions;

- a. Making congregational members aware of the benefits of Diakonia through bulletin announcements, Web site links, and newsletters,
- b. Supporting members who may be seeking to learn more about their faith,
- c. Hosting Greater Milwaukee Synod Diakonia graduates for temple talks and/or presentations to congregational groups;
- d. Providing financial support for members to participate in Diakonia
- e. Encouraging congregational leaders to participate in Diakonia

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

- a. All voting members of this synod assembly covenant together to support lay education through their prayers and actions; and
- b. This synod celebrate and continue to support and strengthen graduates in recognition of the faith that they have exhibited in and through their dedication to the study of God’s Word and their willingness to serve God.