

Resolution 2 – 2014 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly  
Resolution Encouraging Voting Member Diversity and Participation  
*Submitted by the Waukesha Cluster*

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WHEREAS many congregations do not send as many voting members to our annual assembly as they would be eligible to send; and,

WHEREAS other congregations send no voting members to our annual assembly; and

WHEREAS the annual fee to register is a significant barrier to participation even in well-resourced congregations; and

WHEREAS the sample polling done at the 2012 Assembly found that a majority of voting members had been there previously in that capacity, frequently more than five times; and

WHEREAS the typical days for this Assembly (Thursday-Saturday) tend to make it less likely that different, younger, and/or working age people will attend as voting members; and

WHEREAS the congregations of this Synod provide the vast majority of income to the Synod and rightly expect the Synod to facilitate the business of the congregations without billing the congregations for additional fees; and

WHEREAS we otherwise place a high value on diversity, inclusion, removal of financial barriers, and broad participation in the life of our church; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that beginning in 2015, the Greater Milwaukee Synod schedule future Assemblies on weekend days and evenings, and be it further

RESOLVED that all congregations be strongly encouraged to send a full slate of voting members to attend each assembly, and be it further

RESOLVED that congregations be further encouraged not to send the same people as voting members in consecutive years, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Synod Council implement, as a part of the 2015 registration process, means by which substantial discounts of at least 25% be utilized to celebrate full slates (for the 3<sup>rd</sup> voter member per congregation and up) and the rotation of congregational representation (discount for anyone who did not serve the previous year). Funding for these discounts should come from General Synod revenue rather than increased fees for registration, and be it further

RESOLVED that the long-term goal of this Synod be to eliminate registration fees entirely through adjustments to the general Synod budget beginning in 2015 with the goal of achieving fee-free access to our own assembly as of 2017.