

Resolution 1 – 2018 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly Resolution in Support of Embracing and Expanding the Reconciling in Christ Identity of the Congregations within the Greater Milwaukee Synod

WHEREAS, The Greater Milwaukee Synod (GMS) has identified itself as partner of the mission of Reconciling in Christ (RIC) and the work of “equality and full inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America” as stated on the GMS webpage; and

WHEREAS, The GMS constitution clearly commits “to participate in God’s mission” by manifesting “the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives” (S6.02.f); and
WHEREAS, Encouraged in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians “to lead a life worthy of the calling to which [we] have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”; and

WHEREAS, Allowances by the GMS of congregations to discriminate against rostered leaders who identify as LGBTQIA+ and express prejudice against individuals who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community is in direct opposition to a commitment of “action” and our call of “making every effort” to reveal the unity of the Spirit; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Greater Milwaukee Synod, in support their partnership to the Reconciling in Christ Ministry, add a RIC financial line item to the 2020 synodical budget the amount of which to be determined by the Synod Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, That RIC congregations within the GMS strive for active involvement, visibility, and representation within their faith communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the GMS and RIC congregations encourage and empower non-RIC congregations to begin the process of becoming RIC; and be it further

RESOLVED, That congregations who are not RIC, but may be considering RIC status, may be supported by the GMS and RIC congregations in actively becoming a RIC congregation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That congregations who are not RIC, and are opposed to becoming RIC, be invited by the GMS leadership into direct conversation, self-exploration, and diversity training; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Synod leadership seek the necessary training to confidently and competently engage in these needed conversations on topics of inclusion, diversity, reconciliation, and welcome of the LGBTQIA+ community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That progress in the efforts to live into our identity as a RIC Synod be intentionally assessed throughout the year and reported on at the 2019 Synod Assembly by the Greater Milwaukee Synod Reconciling in Christ Ministry Team.

Submitted by Milwaukee Clusters 1 and 2

Co-sponsored by: Ascension Lutheran Church, Cross Lutheran Church, Hephatha Lutheran Church, Lake Park Lutheran Church, Reformation Lutheran Church, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, and The Village Church of Milwaukee; Kingo Lutheran Church, Shorewood; Grace Lutheran Church, Thiensville; and the Greater Milwaukee Synod Reconciling in Christ Ministry Team