RESOLUTION #2 – ESTABLISHMENT OF SYNOD EVANGELISM TASK FORCE  
(Submitted by Luther Memorial Church, West Allis)

WHEREAS the Gospel of Matthew gives the people of God the imperative to “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always until the close of the age”; and

WHEREAS one of the pillars of highly effective churches is to engage in strategic evangelism (as seen in the statistical reports of Barna Research Group, Ltd, Lifeways Research Report, Aid Association for Lutheran’s Report on Why People Leave the Church, American Church in Crisis by David T. Olson); and

WHEREAS many mainline congregations are aging and in numerical decline; and

WHEREAS many church members feel inadequately trained and have a great amount of discomfort and fear in sharing their faith; and

WHEREAS many congregational leaders – both ordained and lay – are not always equipped or comfortable to do evangelism training in a parish setting; and

WHEREAS many evangelism-training programs for congregational settings are beyond the financial means of the medium and small congregations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater Milwaukee Synod charge the synod’s Evangelism and Outreach Team to establish a seven person task force, from its membership, to study the feasibility of calling an individual or individuals to serve as an “in house” evangelist for a month per each congregation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this task force report back to the Synod Evangelism and Outreach Team and also to the 2012 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly.

RECOMMENDATION: The Reference and Counsel Committee recommends adoption of this resolution with the changes made to the “Be it resolved” sections.

Rational for the Changes:
1. The Evangelism and Outreach Committee already deals with synod evangelism and its members would be the best resource for studying this issue.
2. This group can also deal with the question of whether this position needs to be a paid one or if the synod could offer training to its Diakonia graduates in this area. This would give us the possibility of having many more people involved in the “in house” evangelism program.