RESOLUTION #5 – Encouraging wellness for Rostered Leaders (Submitted by Milw I Cluster)

WHEREAS our theology encourages a holistic view of wellness – (mind, body, spirit) and

WHEREAS attention to holistic wellness is not only good for ourselves but also for our ability to energetically respond to Christ’s mission in the world, and

WHEREAS rostered church leaders have often done the best job at taking care of themselves (mind, body, spirit), and

WHEREAS the ELCA Board of Pensions provides a highly beneficial wellness program in cooperation with Mayo Clinic that can make a real difference for leadership wellness and therefore for our mission, and

WHEREAS participation in the Board of Pensions wellness program offers direct benefits for individual participants ($450 a year) as well as for congregations and organizations in the Synod should enough rostered members participate in it ($47,000 total for the synod in 2011),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Assembly strongly encourage eligible rostered leaders to participate in the Board of Pensions’ Wellness program, starting with taking the Mayo Clinic health assessment through the Board of Pensions’ website (www.elcabop.org);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to help congregations encourage their rostered staff to participate in this program that church councils be given written information from the synod about the benefits of this program so that they can talk with their rostered staff about participating in this program on an annual basis;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregational treasurers be given written information from the synod about the financial savings their congregations would receive if their rostered staff and the required percentage of rostered staff in the synod take the online health assessment, information that can be shared with congregations and church councils.

RECOMMENDATION: The Reference and Counsel Committee recommends adoption of this resolution as amended.

Rational: The “Be it resolved” section has been amended to put the emphasis for encouraging rostered staff upon the individual congregations and not simply by a synod resolution. It is felt that by doing this there will be a better chance that rostered staff will participate in this program. The “Be it further resolved” provides information to church treasurers about the direct positive financial affect participation in this program can have on individual congregations and the synod. This can be a good tool for helping to encourage rostered members to get involved in this excellent program.