Whereas, the Rev. Jeff Barrow is completing his first term and sixth year as Bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

Whereas, Bishop Barrow has faithfully served the Church and this synod, the region and churchwide through his ministry with the congregations of the synod, the Synod Council, and synod partners, including the Regional Council, the ELCA Conference of Bishops, and the ELCA Church Council; and

Whereas, Bishop Barrow has faithfully represented this synod and the ELCA in his participation on the Seminary Board of Directors, Outreach for Hope and the; and

Whereas, Bishop Barrow has promoted cross-synodical relationships with our companion synods in El Salvador and Tanzania; and

Whereas, Bishop Barrow has provided pastoral care and leadership for the Greater Milwaukee Synod candidates for rostered ministry, our ordained and other rostered ministers, and lifted up the need to support all church leaders in a holistic manner; and

Whereas, Bishop Barrow has officiated at ordinations, commissionings, consecrations, and installations as rostered leadership joined the faithful communities in the wide variety of ministries within the synod, ministry in and with camps, campuses, care centers, congregations and counseling offices, homes, hospitals; and

Whereas, Bishop Barrow was faithful to his call to interpret and advocate the mission and theology of the whole church, fostering support for the wide variety of expressions of our synod’s evangelical outreach vision in emerging ministries including The Table, Breaking the Chains Church, Living Faith in Racine, Unity in Brookfield, and Emaus, ELCA; and

Whereas, Bishop Barrow has been a voice and a presence both within the church and to the wider community, including the political arena, witnessing to our call to be a public church striving for justice, peace, and the care of creation; now therefore be it

Resolved, that we, as members of this annual assembly of the Greater Milwaukee Synod, offer our appreciation and gratitude in honor of the six years of leadership and service by Jeff Barrow as Synod Bishop; and be it further

Resolved, that we, by this action, also offer thanksgiving to God for Bishop Barrow’s vision, service, and faithful discipleship; and be it finally

Resolved, that we bestow upon Bishop Barrow and all with whom he continues to share life and ministry, the boundless blessings of Almighty God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and give thanks for the ongoing service Bishop Barrow will bring to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church and to the Lord of that church in whom we have life and salvation, now and forever.