

Resolution 1 – 2014 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly  
Resolution on Establishment of a Synod Endowment Fund  
*Submitted by the Greater Milwaukee Synod Council*

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Whereas, Christian stewardship involves the faithful management of all the gifts God has given to humankind - the created world, the Gospel, life, time, abilities, money, including accumulated, inherited, and appreciated resources; and

Whereas, the biblical principle of proportionate giving, to return to the Lord a portion of the gifts God has first given to his beloved children, is both a privilege and an appropriate response of gratitude to God; and

Whereas, Christians can give to the work of the church through gifts in and from wills, life insurance policies, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder and other trusts, and transfers of property such as cash, stocks, bonds and real estate; and

Whereas, a small but growing number of individuals are choosing to include one or more ministries of the GMS with a planned gift, it is the desire of Greater Milwaukee Synod (herein referred to as GMS) to encourage, receive and administer these gifts in a manner consistent with loyalty and devotion to our Lord; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Greater Milwaukee Synod establish a new and separate fund to be known as the Greater Milwaukee Synod Endowment Fund (herein referred to as the Fund), with the following provisions:

- The purpose of this Fund is to distribute financial support to ministries of the GMS. Those ministries include but are not limited to the following areas: Hunger & Poverty, Justice & Antiracism, International & Global, Youth Leadership & Development, Health & Wellness
- No portion of the distributions of the Fund shall be used for the annual operating budget of the GMS, and,
- The GMS Endowment Fund Committee (herein referred to as Committee) shall be the custodian of the Fund, The committee is to be formed through the action of the GMS Council by appointment or, if the Council decides, by the same process as is followed for the staffing of other synod standing committees. The committee will have the authority to establish the

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investment plan, after receiving approval of such investment plan from the GMS Council and take appropriate action to carry out that plan. The committee will also have the responsibility to recommend distributions to the GMS Council for their approval. Once approval is granted the Committee would then be responsible to see that distributions are carried out as quickly as possible, and,

- The purpose, governance, administration and management of the Fund and Committee will be defined by the plan of operation to be approved by the GMS Council. The Fund will be subject to an annual audit, as part of the GMS audit. In addition, The Committee shall report on a bi-monthly basis the status of the Fund, including investment return, additions, distributions, and make-up of investment portfolio.
- The GMS Council with the advice of the task force working on the creation of the GMS Endowment will select a name by which the GMS Endowment will be known and identified.
- The task force working on the creation of the GMS Endowment will also provide recommendations to the Council regarding the plan of how to attract funds to the Fund.