

Resolution 2017-02

From the Blue Earth River Conference to the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly

- 1 **Whereas**, congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) have a history
2 of benevolent service to the community and world; and,
3 **Whereas**, the three expressions of the ELCA – churchwide, synods, and congregations – receive
4 support for their common mission from individual members and from one another;
5 and
6 **Whereas**, to some the word “benevolence” implies that giving is in one direction failing to see
7 that benevolence involves both giving and receiving; and
8 **Whereas**, the strength in this uncertain world is that in the ELCA, all expressions – churchwide,
9 synods, congregations, and individuals – collaborate under common mission support
10 for service to community and world; and,
11 **Whereas**, in most current documents the ELCA has officially adopted the use of “mission
12 support” in place of “benevolence,” therefore be it
13 **Resolved**, that the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, in Assembly, encourage the use of “mission
14 support” instead of “benevolence” in all congregational, synodical, and churchwide
15 communications; and be it further
16 **Resolved**, that the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, in Assembly, request the ELCA Church
17 Council to change the wording of the Model Constitution for Congregations C12.05.e
18 to read, “The congregational council shall ascertain that the financial affairs of this
19 congregation are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention to the prompt
20 payment of all obligations and to the regular forwarding of **benevolence** mission
21 support monies to the synodical treasurer.”

Respectfully submitted,
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*This resolution was presented and approved by the Blue Earth River Conference, meeting in
Assembly on February 12, 2017 at Mansfield Lutheran, Alden, MN. –Pr. Josh Enderson,
Conference Secretary*

The Committee for Reference and Counsel recommends adoption