

Resolution on Relationships with New Start and Strategic Ministries

WHEREAS, the author of Deuteronomy states, “And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt,” (Deut. 10:19); and

WHEREAS, the author of Leviticus states, “when you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the LORD your God,” (Lev. 23:22); and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Minneapolis Area Synod states: “A Congregation considering development of an additional site to be used regularly for worship shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action,” (§13.20.); and

WHEREAS, dominant culture congregations have been exploring Latino ministry in the mission fields of this synod’s Latino Synod Authorized Worshipping Communities (SAWCs) and a Strategic Ministry (an organized congregation with primarily Latino membership) in this synod; and

WHEREAS, the synod has trained, culturally competent Latino pastors and a deacon already present and accompanying these mission fields for years; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in assembly, instructs the Synod Bishop, Synod Council, and Director of Evangelical Mission (DEM) assigned to the Synod to inform annually all MAS congregations the following: If/when considering development of an additional ELCA worship service and/or ministry primarily with immigrants, communities of color, or other marginalized communities, congregations are instructed to confer with the Mission Table of the Synod before such ministry is started; be it further

RESOLVED, that the Mission Table will consult with synodical rostered leaders from the same group that the congregation desires to reach out to before any steps are taken leading to such actions; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Mission Table of the Minneapolis Area Synod makes its recommendations on additional worship services and/or ministries with immigrants, communities of color, or other marginalized communities based on the consultation of the above-mentioned synodical rostered leaders to respect ministry that may already be occurring in the particular mission field.

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Adopted by: Southwest Conference, February 16, 2023