



## **Resolution regarding Application for Full Membership in the Lutheran World Federation**

Whereas, the Constitution of the North American Lutheran Church states: “The (NALC) shall participate in Lutheran, ecumenical, and inter-religious relationships as part of its ministry and mission”; and

Whereas, the document “An Initial Statement on the Ecumenical and Inter-Lutheran Commitment of the North American Lutheran Church,” approved at the August 2011 NALC Convocation states, “As a new church body the North American Lutheran Church acknowledges with appreciation the various inter-Lutheran and ecumenical efforts to manifest Christian unity. We pledge ourselves to continue this journey toward unity among all Christians, convinced that the modern ecumenical movement is a gift of the Spirit of God to the churches as a means of expressing their oneness in Christ”; and

Whereas, the Initial Statement as approved affirms: “As an initial strategy the North American Lutheran Church will...apply for membership in the Lutheran World Federation”; and

Whereas, our Lutheran brothers and sisters in Africa, especially in Ethiopia and Tanzania, desire the full membership of the NALC in the Lutheran World Federation to be an orthodox, confessional North American partner within LWF; and

Whereas, the ecumenical partner of the Roman Catholic Church is the Lutheran World Federation; and

Whereas, full membership within the Lutheran World Federation does not require, nor imply, altar and pulpit fellowship with all member Lutheran bodies; and

Whereas, it is a present reality that certain member Lutheran bodies within the Lutheran World Federation understand themselves to be in impaired communion with certain other member Lutheran bodies; and

Whereas, “All inter-Lutheran and ecumenical church-to-church relationships of an official character shall require the approval of two-thirds of the votes cast at a Convocation, and shall require ratification by congregations...” (13.03, NALC Constitution);

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved that the North American Lutheran Church apply for full membership in the Lutheran World Federation, accepting its constitution, and that NALC congregations be encouraged to ratify this application by December 31, 2012.