



To Appoint a Task Force to Study the Call Process for Returning Missionary and Military Chaplains and Other Rostered Church Workers without a Call

RESOLUTION 3-10A



PRESIDENT'S REPORT, PART 2 (*TB*, p. 20); **OVERTURES 3-24; 7-17** (*CW*, pp. 155; 255-256); **RESOLUTION 7-06** (*TB*, p. 150)

RATIONALE

In our life together as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod there is great concern for professional church workers in candidate and non-candidate status who are without calls, including returning military chaplains and missionaries. Committees 3 (Life Together) and 7 (Structure and Ecclesiastical Matters) have become aware of the urgent need to address this issue with compassion.

However, the situation is not only urgent but intricate. Any solution needs to be one that upholds the doctrine of the call while taking into account any necessary bylaw changes and their ramifications. Precipitous action without more thoughtful consideration may result in an incomplete solution or unforeseen consequences.

For these reasons, Committee 3 is encouraging immediate action by district presidents and calling on congregations to address the pressing human need of such workers. At the same time, the committee believes that a task force is necessary in order to recommend a comprehensive solution.

WHEREAS, Ordained missionaries and military chaplains have diverse experience and skills in preaching the Gospel to various peoples; and

WHEREAS, Ordained field missionaries and military chaplains serve in a temporary position which eventually comes to a conclusion and are available for and desire pastoral calls; and

WHEREAS, There are other categories of ordained and commissioned professional church workers who are also available for calls and service to the church; and

WHEREAS, It is poor stewardship that these gifts from God are not being fully utilized because a call has not been received in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, As of January, 2013, 207 ordained and 611 commissioned church workers on candidate status, along with some on non-candidate status, were seeking calls; and

WHEREAS, Soldiers of the Cross exists to serve both active and inactive professional church workers and their families who are in need; therefore be it

Resolved, That each district president be encouraged earnestly to give specific and individual attention to LCMS professional church workers on both candidate and non-candidate status; and be it further

Resolved, That the President of the Synod appoint a task force to address these matters; and be it further

Chairperson: The Rev. Terry Cripe, Ohio District President.

Task force Membership: The resolution defines that the task force is to include, but is not limited to, representatives from the Council of Presidents, the seminaries and the Concordia University System. Task force members are:

The Rev. Terry Cripe, President, Ohio District

The Rev. Dr. Dan Gard, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

The Rev. Dr. Edward Grimenstein, LCMS Office of International Mission

The Rev. John Fale, LCMS Mercy Operations

The Rev. Dr. Dan May, President, Indiana District

The Rev. Dr. Joel Okamoto, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

The Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders, President, Iowa District East

The Rev. Jonathan Shaw, U.S. Army Chaplain

The Rev. Dr. John Wohlrahe, LCMS Second Vice-President

Resolved, That this task force study the need for a placement process for returning military chaplains and missionaries; and be it further

Resolved, That this task force also study the candidate status and non-candidate status of all church workers to aid and encourage congregations and other entities in calling qualified candidates in a timely manner; and be it further

Resolved, That this task force include but not be limited to representatives from the Council of Presidents, the seminaries, and the Concordia University System; and be it further

Resolved, That this task force make a report and recommendations to the Synod no later than one year prior to the 2016 Synod convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of National Mission be encouraged to continue its service through Soldiers of the Cross; and be it finally

Resolved, That Synod congregations and their members be encouraged to give to the Soldiers of the Cross annual fund drive.

Action: Adopted (9)

(When discussion of Res. 3-10A was begun during Session 8, a motion to suspend the Orders of the Day to allow 40 minutes for discussion failed. When discussion resumed during Session 9, a motion to amend the resolution was introduced and then withdrawn. The resolution was adopted as presented [Yes: 884; No: 25].)
