

Resolutions 2008-02 and 2008-03 were submitted after the resolution deadline. They will be treated as specified by the synod's constitution, which says the following regarding late resolutions:

*S7.34.C05 The Synod Assembly may allow an exception to the submission deadline of S7.34.B05 [resolution deadline] provided...the Synod Assembly, by motion passed by majority vote, specifically orders that such late resolution be placed on the Synod Assembly agenda.*

## Resolution 2008-02: Advocating for Peace

1 WHEREAS, Jesus said, "I give you a  
2 new commandment, that you love  
3 one another. Just as I have loved  
4 you, you also should love one  
5 another" (John 13:34) and  
6 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for  
7 they will be called children of  
8 God" (Matthew 5:9); and

9 WHEREAS, Jesus said "Love your  
10 enemies, do good to those who  
11 hate you." (Luke 6:27); and

12 WHEREAS, the Christian Church is to  
13 use its prophetic voice to work for  
14 justice and peace following the  
15 examples of Jesus and his servants  
16 Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Martin Luther  
17 King, Jr., Oscar Romero, and  
18 many others known only to God;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, war, violence, and hatred  
21 continue in Iraq, Afghanistan,  
22 Kenya, Darfur, between Israel and  
23 Palestine, and other nations in the  
24 world;

25 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,  
26 that the 2008 Southeastern  
27 Minnesota Synod Assembly pray  
28 for peace and encourage  
29 congregations to do the same; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that  
31 the synod and congregations pray  
32 for and support those serving in  
33 the military and their families; and

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that  
35 individuals contact their United  
36 States Representatives and  
37 Senators to encourage them to  
38 work for legislation that  
39 encourages justice and peace in  
40 our nation and world; and

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that  
42 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod  
43 Executive Committee consider a  
44 peace and justice theme for the  
45 2009 Synod Assembly. This  
46 theme would include workshops  
47 and strategies on how to discuss  
48 such issues in a polarized church  
49 and nation.

*Submitted by Pastor Nancy Solomonson,  
Pastor David Rossow, and the  
undersigned voting members of the 2008  
Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly:*

*Glenn J. Monson, Rev. Jason  
Bryan-Wagner, Rev. Gary Dreier,  
Rev. Ann Siverling, Rev. Lissa Kahl,  
Rev. Clark Cary, Rev. Norman W. Wahl,  
Rev. David A. Berg, Todd Portinga,  
Rev. Justin Boeding, Rev. Paul Hauschild,  
Rev. Susan Wallager, Rev. Fred Rengsdorf,  
Rev. Peter Rueuss, Rev. Pam  
Aandahl-Solberg, Rev. Kristi Koppel,  
Rev. Carol A. Solovitz, Rev. Lester  
Horntvedt, Rev. Kathi Nycklemoe,  
Rev. Gary Benson, Rev. John B. Heille,  
Rev. Karen Behling, Rev. Dan Kahl,  
Rev. SiriAnna Strommen Campbell,  
Rev. Peter Nycklemoe, Rev. Bradley R.  
Lindberg, Rev. Marie A. K. Anderson,  
Rev. John Friedli, Rev. Tom Kolden,  
Merlin Christenson*



**Resolution 2008-03: Health Insurance Cost**

- 1 WHEREAS, health insurance costs  
 2 have continued to escalate faster  
 3 than most other costs to  
 4 congregations; and
- 5 WHEREAS, ELCA congregations are  
 6 tied to the ELCA Board of  
 7 Pensions' product offering, with  
 8 few exceptions; and
- 9 WHEREAS, cost of that insurance  
 10 coverage is often \$5,000 to \$9,000  
 11 greater than similar coverage often  
 12 available to congregations via the  
 13 few exceptions allowed; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the Board of Pensions'  
 15 current system of health insurance  
 16 is really a prepaid medical expense  
 17 system, without any incentive for  
 18 the insured to do a cost/benefit  
 19 analysis; and
- 20 WHEREAS, individuals have access  
 21 to health insurance products that  
 22 provide the insured with additional  
 23 methods to save for their future;  
 24 and
- 25 WHEREAS, the Board of Pensions  
 26 uses insurance premiums as a  
 27 means to assist congregations that  
 28 might need assistance by  
 29 classifying congregations and  
 30 having larger congregations pay a  
 31 higher premium to reduce the cost  
 32 of health insurance for smaller  
 33 congregations; and
- 34 WHEREAS, the ELCA Church  
 35 Council and synods have an  
 36 obligation to assist congregations  
 37 that have a financial need;
- 38 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,  
 39 that the ELCA Church Council  
 40 request that the Board of Pensions  
 41 revise their product mix,  
 42 decoupling the pension  
 43 participation from the health  
 44 insurance coverage and add a  
 45 health savings account product,  
 46 becoming more competitive with  
 47 other health insurance packages  
 48 offered; and
- 49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that  
 50 the Church Council develop a  
 51 means to assist congregations that  
 52 have financial needs, and fund that  
 53 program by some method other  
 54 than a health insurance premium  
 55 cost structure based solely upon  
 56 the size of congregations; and
- 57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that  
 58 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod  
 59 communicate with all other ELCA  
 60 synods to get their input and ask  
 61 for their support on this issue; and
- 62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that  
 63 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod  
 64 Assembly direct the Southeastern  
 65 Minnesota Synod Council to  
 66 forward this resolution to the  
 67 Church Council for consideration  
 68 and possible action.
- 69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that  
 70 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod  
 71 communicate with all other ELCA  
 72 synods to get their input and ask  
 73 for their support on this issue; and

*Passed and submitted by St. Ansgar's  
 Lutheran Church, Cannon Falls*

*The Committee on Reference and Counsel  
 recommends this resolution be referred  
 back to the authors and that they work  
 with the Synod Executive Committee to  
 clarify issues.*

*- Rev. Mark Boorsma, Chair*

