

RESOLUTION TWO

AFFIRMING NORTHWEST WASHINGTON SYNOD'S COMMITMENT TO THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN EUROPEAN RUSSIA (ELCER) THROUGH THE COMPANION SYNOD PROGRAM

WHEREAS the Northwest Washington Synod is in partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in European Russia (ELCER) with the Synod's committee "Team Russia" as the local expression of this companion synod relationship; and

WHEREAS this partnership has included congregation-to-congregation partnerships, travel delegations from the Northwest Washington Synod to Russia and Russia to the Northwest Washington Synod, and financial support for ministry projects; and

WHEREAS geopolitical conflicts and global health restrictions present challenges in maintaining or deepening expression of our companion synod relationships; and

WHEREAS expressions of Christian unity such as the companion synod program cross geopolitical barriers; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod, in partnership with Team Russia, encourage active engagement with the ELCER through prayer, mutual visits, financial support where needed, sharing of information from Team Russia, and development of congregation-to-congregation relationships with congregations of the ELCER.

Contact person for the resolution: Rev. Tim Feiertag, Team Russia

1. What is the financial impact of this resolution on the synod budget? If expenditures are required, what are the sources of income anticipated to accomplish the purpose of the resolution?

Because Team Russia already exists within the synod structure and budget, there is no additional financial impact of this resolution. However, individuals and congregations may increase their support for the work of Team Russia as a result of this resolution.

2. What are the personnel implications within our synod (or churchwide)?

Because Team Russia already exists within the synod structure, no new duties will be added as a result of this resolution, though any increase in interest in the work of Team Russia may result in additional calls and emails to the synod office and the office of the bishop. The volunteer members of Team Russia will absorb the majority, if any, additional work that would result from this resolution.

3. Who will be responsible for the implementation of the resolution?

The current members of Team Russia (including the bishop) as well as the leadership of the individual congregations and worshiping communities

4. How does this resolution enhance and forward the mission of the church and our synod?

From elca.org:

"Through the [companion synod] program, companion churches and ELCA synods nurture and strengthen one another for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors and sharing of resources. We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world — together. Companion church relationships enrich and deepen our ministries by exposing us to global challenges and perspectives as we seek to work with one another to build up the body of Christ and the world."