

Resolution Number 2 2010 Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Assembly

" A RESOLUTION CONCERNING TERM LIMITS FOR THE OFFICE OF BISHOP "

- 1 **WHEREAS** Scripture states that, “It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets,
2 some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works
3 of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in
4 the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the
5 fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13); and
6
- 7 **WHEREAS** gifts are given by God to persons chosen for a specific ministry and not always
8 before, often laying dormant only to be awakened within one who has been given greater
9 responsibility, becoming active when needed; and
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- 11 **WHEREAS** for the sake of mission, this church trusts its people to discern the work of the Holy
12 Spirit in calling all servants--including pastors--into ministry without regard to term; and
13
- 14 **WHEREAS** the office of Bishop is a call which takes time to develop, learn one's way and style,
15 and grow into the call (coming to maturity and confidence); and
16
- 17 **WHEREAS** the Bishop of this synod is its chief missionary, with 60% of the bishop's time
18 committed toward helping promote the great commission and great commandment mission
19 emphasis in our synod; and
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- 21 **WHEREAS** this Synod and the Churchwide expression are dealing with unprecedented
22 economic and social justice realities (i.e., the recession and 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly
23 decisions regarding sexuality); and
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- 25 **WHEREAS** this Synod desires a bishop with experience, insight, and confidence and who has
26 solid partnerships in place with ELCA and Region One partners; and
27
- 28 **WHEREAS** the terms of other officers of this Synod (Vice-president, secretary and treasurer)
29 are ending in 2011, potentially resulting in a major turnover of the executive committee's lay
30 leadership at the same time as electing a new bishop;
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- 32 **WHEREAS** the Constitution of this Synod provides opportunity for discernment of call by a
33 regular election process (see S8.51a); therefore be it
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- 35 **RESOLVED** that bylaw S8.51.01, which states, “The Bishop may be reelected only once,
36 limiting the number of years in office to 12,” be deleted from the Constitution of the Eastern
37 Washington-Idaho Synod of the ELCA.

Submitted by,
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February 3, 2010

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