

SYNOD COUNCIL RESOLUTION 21.01 SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

VOTED: Motion carried (For – 188, Against – 4)

SA21.06.08 To adopt Resolution 21.01

Title Spiritual Discernment
Date March 17, 2020, affirmed April 24, 2021
Mover Synod Council

WHEREAS through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord spoke to God’s people, “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:18-19a,) and;

WHEREAS Jesus promised the apostles, “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you” (John 14:25-26) and “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you” (Acts 1:8a), and;

WHEREAS St. Paul identifies the Holy Spirit as the source of hope, joy, and peace when he writes, “May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13), and;

WHEREAS the Synod Council, through a process of listening and discerning across the synod, has identified the need to create space for mutual trust in which authentic, transformative conversations may occur, in order to boldly discern the forward movement of the Spirit, and;

WHEREAS to boldly discern the forward movement of the Spirit, we need to more deeply engage ourselves and our synod in the spiritual practices of dwelling in God’s Word, prayer, and holy listening and conversation, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Central/Southern Illinois Synod enter into a year-long season of deepening and discernment, beginning with the 2021 Synod Assembly and concluding with the 2022 Synod Assembly, in which we listen together boldly for the forward movement of the Holy Spirit in our congregations, conferences, synod, and ELCA, and; be it further

RESOLVED that during this year-long season of spiritual discernment, every synod-sponsored gathering, including meetings of the Synod Council, synod committees, synod task forces, etc., include an intentional period of mutual discernment and conversation that includes a time of dwelling together in God’s Word, prayer, and shared listening and conversation around the question, “To what might God’s Holy Spirit be calling us?,” and; be it further

RESOLVED that during this year-long season of spiritual discernment, all conferences, congregations, and ministries across the synod are invited and encouraged to include a similar intentional period of mutual

discernment and conversation in their life together for the purpose of deepening our spiritual engagement with the Triune God and being formed through the Holy Spirit into the people God is calling us to be; and; be it further

RESOLVED that the synod staff develop or provide for resources to help guide leaders in engaging their faith communities in the spiritual practices listed above and that such resources be developed and provided as soon as possible after the adoption of this resolution, and; be it further

RESOLVED that the 2021 Fall Theological Conference and the 2022 Synod Assembly include intentional time and opportunities for such spiritual discernment to take place in the community that is gathered, and; be it further

RESOLVED that throughout this process, the synod look for opportunities to share stories across the synod of how the forward movement of the Spirit is being glimpsed through this deepened spiritual engagement and discernment.