1 To Rescind Resolutions Which Do Not 2 Unambiguously Renounce Syncretism and Unionism 3 4 Whereas, in the First Commandment the Triune God out of love for us strictly forbids us from 5 joining in worship with non-Christians; and 6 7 Whereas, participating with others while they are praying to false gods and reading their sacred 8 writings gives a false testimony to the truth that only one God exists, is a violation of the First 9 Commandment, and fails to lead sinners to the Savior Jesus; and 10 11 Whereas, Article IV of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod lists as a 12 condition for membership, "Renunciation of unionism and syncretism of every description;" and 13 Whereas, God through his holy apostle said, "Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.... 14 15 the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be 16 participants with demons;" (1 Corinthians 10:14, 20) and 17 18 Whereas, pastors of our synod willingly and without coercion pledged themselves to abide by 19 our Synod's Constitution, including Article VI, 2:b-c, which states that pastors are to avoid 20 "taking part in the services of heterodox congregations . . . and [heterodox] mission activities;" 21 and 22 23 Whereas, Resolution 3-07A of the 2001 LCMS Convention was used—contrary to its original 24 intent—to give approval to LCMS pastors participating in syncretistic and unionistic service 25 because they were, "offering prayers, speaking and reading Scripture at events sponsored by governments," and this new interpretation has been referred to as "the official position of the 26 27 Synod" in official 2004 Synodical reports of the President; and 28 29 Whereas, the 2004 Synodical Convention passed Resolution 3-06A, which commended the 30 CTCR document entitled, "Guidelines for Participation in Civic Events(GPCE)." This document 31 does not unambiguously forbid the participation of LCMS pastors in syncretistic and unionistic 32 services in the future. Instead, the majority opinion allows for participation in joint prayer 33 services by claiming that Christian and non-Christian clergy could "take turns" offering 34 prayers("serial" prayers) without it being joint worship; and 35 36 WHEREAS, the notion of "civic events" sponsored by governments has been used to justify 37 participation of LCMS pastors in syncretistic and unionistic services; and 38 39 Whereas, 2004 Res. 3-06A was commended "for study to help pastors, teachers, and church 40 workers make decisions about participation in civic events;" therefore be it 41 42 Resolved, that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, gathered in convention, rescind the 2004 43 LCMS convention Res. 3-06A(commending the CTCR document, "Guidelines for Participation 44 in Civic Events") and the 2001 LCMS convention Res. 3-07A(commending the CTCR 45 document, "The Lutheran Understanding of Church Fellowship"); and be it finally 46

Resolved, that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, gathered in convention, have guidelines produced that would be so clear and unambiguous as to rule out any repetition of LCMS participation in syncretism or unionism in the future and would be in keeping with the LCMS Constitution, Article IV, condition for membership, "Renunciation of unionism and syncretism of every description." Approved on Sunday, January 28, 2007 Trinity Lutheran Church 1000 North Park Avenue Herrin, IL 62948