

Committee on Reference and Counsel

The Committee on Reference and counsel received one resolution. The amended resolution is listed below followed by the original resolution.

The committee on Reference and Counsel **recommends adoption of the amended resolution.**

2025 Juniata Valley Conference Resolution

Whereas the boundaries and names of synods are determined by the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions 10.01.01). and,

Whereas, “Any synod contemplating amending articles of incorporation or undertaking other fundamental changes such as dissolution, merger, partition into multiple synods, creating a new synod corporation, incorporating in another jurisdiction, or any similar or related action, especially those that may affect relationships with other expressions of this church, must first consult with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Office of the Secretary, and with the bishops of any synods affected before seeking ratification by the Church Council. “(ELCA BCR 10.11.01); and,

Whereas the number of congregations of the Upper Susquehanna Synod continues to decline; and,

Whereas the remaining congregations of the Upper Susquehanna Synod struggle to financially support the mission of the synod; and,

Whereas we are called to be responsible for the resources God gives us and to be good stewards of all those gifts, financial and otherwise; and

Whereas we are called to share the abundant gifts of God to follow Jesus into the world to share the Good News and care for those most in need; and,

Whereas we can accomplish this mission more effectively together; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Office of the Bishop and synod council members begin exploring the possibility of restructuring or combining existing synods in Pennsylvania, in consultation with affected leaders and congregations, to create a new synod structure to carry on the mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Updates regarding this resolution should be reported to the congregations in September and any actions regarding this resolution should be reported during future Synod Assemblies of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. And be it further

RESOLVED that updates regarding this resolution should be reported to the congregations in September and any actions regarding this resolution should be reported during future Synod Assemblies of the Upper Susquehanna Synod.

Revs. Rick Adams, Jim Bricker, Deb Ernst, Charlie Hershberger, Sam Leister, Ken Longfield, Mike Sigler, Carla Volland, and Karen Ward.

Juniata Valley Conference 2025 voting members to the USS Assembly in assembly on April 29th voted unanimously to support this resolution from their pastors.

The following is the **original** resolution received from the Juniata Valley Conference:

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RESOLVED that the Office of the Bishop, other synod leaders and synod council members begin exploring the possibility of restructuring or combining existing synods in Pennsylvania, in consultation with affected leaders and congregations, to create a new synod structure to carry on the mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Updates regarding this resolution should be reported to the congregations in September and any actions regarding this resolution should be reported during future Synod Assemblies of the Upper Susquehanna Synod.

Revs. Rick Adams, Jim Bricker, Deb Ernst, Charlie Hershberger, Sam Leister, Ken Longfield, Mike Sigler, Carla Volland, and Karen Ward.