

Resolution to adopt the Impaired Professionals Program

Whereas the disease of addiction is a reality in any society and social group and,

Whereas religious professionals are just as liable to become addicted as any other professional or societal group and,

Whereas those religious professionals who recognize how the disease has affected their lives by accepting treatment for their addiction can continue to be effective servants of the church and,

Whereas our (synod/district) is committed to the ongoing wellness of our religious professionals (pastors, AIM's, teachers, et al.) through our wellness programs and,

Whereas an Impaired Professionals Program can be a significant benefit to ELCA bishops and LCMS district presidents, who are seeking to minister with church professionals who have accepted treatment for their addiction, with the objective of returning those leaders to personal health and wholeness, as well as full and faithful ministry, be it therefore,

Resolved that this (synod/district) adopt an Impaired Professionals Program as recommended by the Fellowship of Recovering Lutheran Clergy as a means of continuing care and judicatory oversight and, be it further

Resolved that funding for such a program be made available through the health and wellness benefits (both medical and behavioral) of the denominations' sponsored benefit plans for the first two years following the recovering church professional's initial primary treatment (whether it be in patient or outpatient) and, be it further

Resolved that ELCA synods and LCMS districts be encouraged to support the Impaired Professionals Program, by providing the synod staff and key leaders with training and financial support for their involvement in this effort and, be it further

Resolved that the families of the recovering persons be provided with support and counseling inasmuch as they are also a part of the addictive disease process.

Submitted by **The Fellowship of Recovering Lutheran Clergy**—a group of over 200 LCMS and ELCA clergy.