To combine Marriage, Life and Family Services into a Unified Ministry

Whereas the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are not metaphors drawn from our experience of family, but are an eternal relationship of Persons in whose image the family was created;

Whereas the Holy Scriptures, by placing Adam's creation in the image of God in the immediate context of the creation of “male and female” (Genesis 1:27), ties marriage directly to the existence of mankind;

Whereas human life since creation has been perpetuated through the one flesh union of male and female. Holy matrimony is both the God-ordained means for conceiving life and is also endowed by God with every necessary gift to protect, defend, nurture and educate those children whom God has placed within the care of husband and wife;

Whereas marriage, life and family, while three distinct gifts of God, are yet so interrelated and mutually supportive that none of the three, taken by itself, can be fully adumbrated nor fully supported. They thus form an inseparable and holy unity which itself is integral to God’s design;

Whereas members of the LCMS are daily encountering confused, ungodly and ever-changing “teachings of demons” which deny and undermine God’s institution of marriage (1 Timothy 4:1, 3), the sanctity of human life, and the divine origin of the family; so that now, more than ever, the people of God need clear, thoughtful, and ongoing guidance which reflects deeply on God's word, makes precise and faithful use of language, and faithfully upholds these divine institutions;

Whereas the 2016 LCMS convention resolved to “strengthen and support the Lutheran family in living out God’s design.” (4-02 and 16-02a). Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that LCMS Life Ministries be renamed LCMS Marriage, Life, and Family Ministries; and that it be tasked with the ongoing work of supporting and strengthening the Lutheran family from conception to natural death; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the LCMS Marriage, Life, and Family Ministries be initially assigned the following topics to study and offer guidance for all members of the LCMS, that we might walk together in love and unity, living faithfully in a culture intent upon contradicting God’s works of marriage, life and family:

1) the impact government schools are having on the faith and families of Lutheran youth, with the possibility of providing recommendations of how Christian households might mitigate the effects of our culture’s most corrosive teachings (parochial schools, on-line academies, homeschool, etc.), and
2) provide encouragement and resources for Lutheran parents, especially fathers, to lead their families in the reading and discussion of God’s Word in their homes, and

3) the impact that changes in marriage laws, such as no-fault divorce, have had on the sanctity of marriage, the sanctity of life, and the vitality of the family, and

4) the theological and practical impact that various forms of birth control have had upon marriage, life and family, and

5) how those involved in same-sex “marriages” may faithfully repent of the ungodly union while remaining faithful in their financial, custodial, and legal obligations; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that reports on the above-named tasks be prepared for submission to the 2022 Synod Convention for review, possible ratification, and as appropriate, wide dissemination throughout the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.