

1 **To Invite Congregations to Utilize “Set Apart to Serve”**

2 **Resolution 1-03**

3 WHEREAS, The pressure is growing on the Church as a result of living in a
4 world that is less respectful of the Christian faith; and

5 WHEREAS, The need for pastors and church workers is urgent, as studies show
6 that because of the significant number of pastors reaching retirement age, we will
7 see the number of ordained pastors decline from 6,000 to 3,000 over the next
8 fifteen years; and

9 WHEREAS, From 2004 to 2018 enrollment for pre-seminary (undergraduate)
10 students declined 59% and for Lutheran school teachers 61%; enrollment at the
11 seminaries has declined 55%, and 44% of active ordained men are over 55 years of
12 age, according to “Set Apart to Serve” research; and

13 WHEREAS, Research shows that the top four influencers that lead young people
14 into church work are: ordained and commissioned workers, Lutheran school
15 teachers, and families; and

16 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has initiated a program
17 entitled “Set Apart to Serve,” the purpose of which is to encourage young men and
18 women to go into full time church work; therefore be it

19 *Resolved*, That the Montana District in convention invite congregations of the
20 District, the ordained and commissioned workers, Lutheran school teachers, and
21 families to utilize “Set Apart to Serve” as they encourage young men and women
22 to enter church work vocations.

23 President Forke report, §II
24 MT Dist. Convention Handbook, pp. 33–35

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26 **Signatures**

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Rev. Arlo Pullmann, Chairman

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Rev. Jakob Berger, Secretary

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