

1 **To Encourage and Equip Fathers in their God-Given Task of Raising**
2 **Children in the Faith**

3 **Resolution 4-03**

4 WHEREAS, God commands fathers to train their children in the Word. “Fathers, do
5 not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and
6 instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4); and

7 WHEREAS, Moses wrote, “And these words that I command you today shall be on
8 your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them
9 when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie
10 down, and when you rise. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and
11 on your gates” (Deuteronomy 6:6-9); and

12 WHEREAS, One-quarter of the world’s population is under 15 years of age
13 (www.statista.com/statistics/265759/world-population-by-age-and-region/); and

14 WHEREAS, Some children are not raised with their father present; and

15 WHEREAS, Many grandparents are raising their grandchildren while trying to help
16 their adult children (“When Grandparents Raise Their Grandchildren,” Psychology
17 Today, 2017); and

18 WHEREAS, Many adults have limited parenting skills or may not accomplish their
19 responsibility in passing the faith to their children. “Train up a child in the way he
20 should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6); and

21 WHEREAS, 25 percent of children whose primary faith influence is the church will
22 remain faithful in adult life, and 81 percent of children whose primary faith
23 influence is the family will remain faithful into adulthood (Peter L. Benson,
24 *Congregations at Crossroads: A National Study of Adults and Youth in the LCMS*
25 [Search Institute, 1995], 21), which suggests that a home-centered paradigm is
26 more effective for retention than one that is exclusively church-centered; and

27 WHEREAS, Synod in 2019 resolved that “LCMS districts share successful strategies
28 among their congregations, with other districts, and with Synod as a whole”;
29 therefore be it

30 *Resolved*, That fathers in the Montana District be encouraged in their God-given
31 responsibility to teach their children the faith, and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Montana District in Convention directs the District Education
33 Committee to find and highlight suitable material to assist fathers and mothers and
34 parents/caregivers in the God-given task of raising children in the faith, and be it
35 further

36 *Resolved*, If gaps are found in the educational materials, the District Education
37 Committee will ensure further resources will be developed, and be it further

38 *Resolved*, Montana District in Convention directs our Education Committee to
39 create an instructional seminar on how to best access and utilize the materials for
40 the home. This seminar to be available district wide, whether in-person or online to
41 train parents/caregivers; and be it finally

42 *Resolved*, That the Montana District Education Committee make every effort to
43 submit their findings to the District President in time to be placed in the 2023
44 Synodical Convention Workbook district report in accordance with the 2019
45 LCMS synod resolution 12-03a.

46 Re: President's Report P. 36

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48 **Signatures**

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Rev. Howard D. Schreibeis, Chairman, Committee 4

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Rev. Russell L. Dewell, Secretary,
55 Committee 4