

1 **To Prevent the Admission, Reinstatement, or Colloquization of a Divorced**
2 **Man into the Office of the Public Ministry who has Married Another Woman**

3 **Resolution 5-03**

4 WHEREAS, Christ our Lord says with regard to marriage, "What therefore God
5 has joined together, let not man separate," (Matthew 19:6; Mark 10:9; cf. Genesis
6 2:24); and

7 WHEREAS, a man is guilty of adultery if he marries another woman while his
8 wife lives; however, if his wife dies he is free to marry, (Romans 7:2-3); and

9 WHEREAS, Men called into the Office of the Public Ministry are called to be
10 above reproach. Specifically, with regard to marriage, this requires him to be the
11 husband of no more than one wife, (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6); and

12 WHEREAS, divorce and remarriage disqualifies a man from the Office of the
13 Public Ministry, (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6); and

14 WHEREAS, The decision whether to accept or deny a request for reinstatement
15 shall be at the sole discretion of the Council of Presidents, (Bylaw 2.18.1); and

16 WHEREAS, The decision to declare applicants for colloquy to be qualified for
17 the pastoral ministry and to certify such men for placement rests at the sole
18 discretion of the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry, (Bylaw
19 3.10.2.2.b); and

20 WHEREAS, In the action of reinstating or not reinstating a man into the office of
21 the ministry, the Council of Presidents does so as an officially established advisory
22 body of the Synod, (Bylaw 1.2.1.g); and

23 WHEREAS, By the actions of admitting, reinstating, or colloquizing, the Council
24 of Presidents and Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry, respectively, state
25 that a man is qualified for the Office of the Public Ministry in The Lutheran Church-
26 Missouri Synod. As this is an assignment given to them by the members of the Synod
27 in convention (having been codified in the Bylaws of the Synod), they do so as
28 representatives of the members of the Synod (Bylaw 3.10.1.4; Bylaw 2.18.1);
29 therefore be it

30 *Resolved*, that the Council of Presidents not admit a divorced man into the Office
31 of the Ministry who has married another woman; and be it further;

32 *Resolved*, That the Council of Presidents not reinstate a divorced man into the
33 Office of the Ministry who has married another woman; and be it further;

34 *Resolved*, That the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry not colloquize
35 a divorced man into the Office of the Public Ministry who has married another
36 woman; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That when a man is reinstated into the Office of the Public
38 Ministry, the reason for reinstatement be made available upon request; and be it
39 further

40 *Resolved*, That when a man is colloquized into the Office of the Public Ministry,
41 the reason for colloquization be made available upon request; and be it finally

42 *Resolved*, That the Montana District in convention adopt this resolution and
43 submit it to the Synod Convention for adoption.