



Resolution 2016-03-02

Subject: Reduction of Student Debt

Reference: RttD, pp. 128, 136-137

- WHEREAS 1) the average student debt for Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS) graduates has declined but still remains above \$24,000 per student; and
- WHEREAS 2) the average student debt for Martin Luther College (MLC) graduates is below the national average but still is above \$25,000 per student; and
- WHEREAS 3) the Synod in convention in 2015 has resolved to address the issue of student indebtedness; and
- WHEREAS 4) WLS has received grants and gifts to help meet student needs; and
- WHEREAS 5) MLC has already introduced new scholarships in an effort to address student indebtedness; and
- WHEREAS 6) the *One in Christ* debt-elimination campaign will conclude this month; therefore be it
- Resolved, a) that we commend the Synodical Council, WLS, and MLC for their efforts to carry out the Synod's directive; and be it further
- Resolved, b) that we memorialize the Synod to conduct a synod-wide campaign focused on increasing student aid by supplementing existing student assistance funds.

Respectfully submitted,

Teacher Steven Rosenbaum, Chairman
Pastor Matthew Natsis, Secretary

To the members of the Synodical Council of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod:

The Arizona-California District in convention has adopted a resolution to convey our strong concern regarding the indebtedness of students training for the full-time ministry. We commend the efforts currently being done, but also feel that this is an issue that demands attention at the synodical level.

With this in mind, our district asks the synod in convention to consider the attached resolution as a memorial. It is the desire of our district that this not be a simple encouragement, but that action be taken in order to convey to the whole synod the importance of supporting our future called workers. God-willing, this will be one way also to encourage more young men and women to consider the full-time ministry and not see student debt as a deterrent to this calling.

In Christ,

The Arizona-California District in Convention