

Resolution Honoring the Ministry of the Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith

Whereas, The Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith has served the church faithfully throughout 39 years of ordained ministry, beginning with pastoral ministry in the North Carolina Synod, and serving 10 years as Bishop of the North Carolina Synod-ELCA; and

Whereas, The Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith has willingly shared all that God has entrusted to him by serving as the “Synod’s Pastor”, proclaiming God’s word, interpreting the Gospel, celebrating the sacraments, identifying, ordaining, and commissioning Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Ministers of Word and Service, and Synod Authorized Ministers and Lay Preachers, and being present in congregations across the synod; and

Whereas, the Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith has provided leadership and guidance to the North Carolina Synod as it lives out its mission through visioning and naming core values: Jesus, Generosity, Relationship and Reconciliation; and

Whereas, the Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith responsibly, steadfastly, compassionately and lovingly helped the North Carolina Synod to navigate the COVID pandemic; and

Whereas, the Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith has continued to oversee and administer the work of the synod while effectively participating in the church beyond the borders of the North Carolina Synod, building strong partnerships within the ELCA, the Conference of Bishops, and with the agencies and institutions of the NC Synod; and

Whereas, the Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith has consistently guided and inspired the synod to actively and generously engage in God’s Work Our Hands, and recent Bishop Challenges have focused on supporting Refugee Hospitality, Youth Ministry, and ongoing efforts to aid Lutheran Disaster Response, and

Whereas, the Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith was called by the Holy Spirit to walk with us and share our joys and our sorrows; was equipped by the Holy Spirit; and was surrounded with partners in ministry, particularly in the North Carolina Synod Office and beyond; and

Whereas, the Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith is especially blessed by the love and encouragement of his wife Wendy and his family, who have fully and graciously supported his ministry;

Therefore, be it **Resolved**, that the 2025 North Carolina Synod Assembly express its joy and gratitude to the Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith, for his outstanding service to the Risen Lord through his many ministries within the North Carolina Synod, by standing in applause and recognition at this time; and

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43 Be it further Resolved that the Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith be named “Bishop Emeritus” of the
44 North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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47 Submitted by the Transition Team and
48 the Members of the North Carolina Synod Council

