

Floor Committee 21: Ad Hoc Commission 2

Subject: Topic 9 - Board for World Missions' procedures for opening new mission fields and withdrawing manpower from existing mission fields

Reference: Book of Reports and Memorials, pp. 192, 193

Resolution No. 7

WHEREAS the Ad Hoc Commission 2 (AHC2) studied concerns expressed about the methods used by the Board for World Missions (BWM) in determining when to begin working in a new mission field and when to withdraw support and/or expatriate manpower from existing mission fields; therefore be it

Resolved, a) that the synod in convention encourages the BWM to work with each administrative committee to develop written, strategic plans for future mission expansion. The plans might include a strategy for expansion within an existing country or expansion into another country. The plans should include maximum utilization of technology and alternate strategies, where workable; and be it further

Resolved, b) that the synod in convention encourages the BWM to work with each administrative committee to develop written, strategic plans for future withdrawal of money and manpower support from existing mission fields. The plans should include stated goals and benchmarks that should be reached prior to a strategic reduction. (For example, a plan might state, “When we have ten national congregations and six fully-trained national pastors, we will plan to withdraw one expatriate missionary.”); and be it further

Resolved, c) that the synod in convention encourages the BWM to think long term when doing mission work in foreign countries. When planting and developing a national church, it seems prudent to think in terms of multiple generations to develop a national church to the point where complete withdrawal of manpower and outside subsidy is possible; and be it further

Resolved, d) that the synod in convention encourages the synod to resist precipitous and unplanned reductions in money and manpower that undercut strategic planning (except where necessitated by political or other circumstances that may impact the safety of the called workers and their families); and be it finally

Resolved, e) that the synod in convention encourages the synod to renew and reaffirm its commitment to gospel outreach around the world, using any legitimate means possible to reach souls for Christ.

Pastor Charles Vannieuwenhoven, chairman

Teacher Kevin Ehlke, secretary

ADOPTED