

Floor Committee 22: Miscellaneous Memorials

Subject: Scouting

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, Unprinted Memorial

Resolution No. 02

WHEREAS 1) The various organizations and activities of scouting continue to draw the interest of WELS children and their parents because of their perceived benefits; and

WHEREAS 2) many changes have taken place within both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts in recent decades, as evidenced by new policies regarding homosexuality, their oaths and objectives, and public statements and materials seeming to downplay the religious elements of scouting; and

WHEREAS 3) many earlier materials on scouting produced by the WELS do not take into account the differences between the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts, nor the perceived differences in participation from one level, e.g. Cub Scouts or Brownies, to the next, e.g. Scouts, nor the possibility of differences in practice and significance from one location ("troop", "den", etc.) to another; and

WHEREAS 4) the lack of up-to-date and currently accurate materials has left congregations and individuals seeking guidance regarding scouting struggling to determine if previous evaluations and judgments are still accurate and make it difficult for parents and children to match our historical criticisms of scouting to the organizations, troops, dens, etc. that are actually presented as options for their children; and

WHEREAS 5) the wider Church, especially confessional Lutherans, but also other Christians looking into the issues regarding scouting would benefit from a detailed, Scripture-based and evangelical study with published documentation; and

WHEREAS 6) the Lutheran Pioneers and Lutheran Girl Pioneers have for many years faithfully provided a scripturally sound and beneficial alternative to scouting, but many WELS congregations find themselves too small and/or too isolated for sponsoring Pioneer programs to be feasible; therefore be it

Resolved, a) that the Conference of Presidents appoint a committee to do research into the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and their affiliated activities and organizations, e.g. Venturing, to determine the current spiritual implications of membership and involvement with those groups; and be it further

Resolved, b) that said committee and/or the Conference of Presidents report their findings on the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to the 2016 district conventions of WELS and present our position at the 2017 synod convention; and be it further

Resolved, c) that said committee and/or the Conference of Presidents have resources and documents produced that can be used by congregations and individuals needing an explanation of our position regarding Boy Scout or Girl Scout membership and involvement; and be it further

Resolved, d) that our brethren in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod be consulted in the course of the committee's work, and advised of any recommendations resulting from the work; and be it finally

Resolved, e) that any new recommendations regarding scouting still support and encourage membership in Lutheran Pioneers and Lutheran Girl Pioneers.

Pastor Robert Dick, chairman

Mr. Kevin Walker, secretary

**DEFEATED**