

Subject: Support for 21st Century Lutheran Principal Initiative

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, pp. 68-69

Resolution No. 02

WHEREAS 1) the Conference of Presidents (COP) has recognized the need to eliminate the Martin Luther College (MLC) graduate assignments to the principal apprentice role; and

WHEREAS 2) the COP limited principal apprentice assignments to two in May 2017, down from an average of seven in previous years; and

WHEREAS 3) the Commission on Lutheran Schools (CLS) and MLC have developed a process to recruit and fully prepare experienced teachers to serve as principals, which is called the 21st Century Lutheran Principal Initiative; and

WHEREAS 4) the 21st Century Lutheran Principal Initiative may produce up to fifteen fully trained principal candidates annually beginning in 2020; and

WHEREAS 5) the current annual principal vacancy rate is 25 per year; and

WHEREAS 6) recent research reveals that common levels of administrative release time, training, and compensation hinder the abilities of principals to lead their schools, contribute to principal attrition, and hinders recruitment of new principals; and

WHEREAS 7) full principal training involves Leadership Candidate Training through the Commission on Lutheran Schools and study for a Master's degree in Educational Administration through Martin Luther College; and

WHEREAS 8) principal training involves a significant amount of time and money on the part of candidates; and

WHEREAS 9) the cost for training should represent a shared investment by candidates and the synod; therefore be it

Resolved, a) to thank the Conference of Presidents for their diligent and earnest efforts to reduce and eliminate the number of MLC graduates assigned to the role of principal apprentice; and be it further

Resolved, b) to endorse the 21st Century Lutheran Principal Initiative, and request the Commission on Lutheran Schools and Martin Luther College to promote and regularly review the initiative; and be it further

Resolved, c) to encourage calling bodies to enact the synod-adopted guidelines for principal administrative release time and compensation; and be it finally

Resolved, d) to ask the Synodical Council and the Board for Ministerial Education to prioritize the funding needed to encourage and support WELS teachers to join a 21st Century Lutheran Principal cohort.

Teacher Jamie Luehring, chairman

Pastor Matthew Kuske, secretary

ADOPTED