



A Resolution Concerning Chaplaincy at Diakon Retirement Facilities

WHEREAS Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries has eliminated the position of Vice President for Church Relations and Ministry Partnerships, a position of ministry with the Chaplains of Diakon homes, and has recently reduced the Chaplaincy position at The Topton Lutheran Home to half-time; and

WHEREAS Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries is an ELCA Social Ministry agency, and two of their Continuing Care Retirement Centers, Luther Crest and The Topton Lutheran Home, are both on the territory of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod; and

WHEREAS these two facilities have the full range of care from Independent Living, Personal Care, and Skilled Nursing, and as Continuing Care facilities commit to care for residents until death; and

WHEREAS our Lutheran tradition maintains and upholds that the Gospel brings healing and hope at all stages of life, it is important that there be full time clinically trained Chaplains in each facility; and

WHEREAS financial pressures are serious challenges, administration of these facilities must regard full-time Chaplaincy as important and necessary care, and support the Chaplain with adequate compensation and benefits to assure that full-time Chaplaincy can be provided; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod in Assembly urge that Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries Agency of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America commit to providing full time Chaplaincy in its Senior Living & Housing facilities.

Respectfully submitted by

Mrs. Mary Ann Spengler, Resident at Luther Crest- St. Paul's, Breiningsville

Rev. David Kistler, Resident at The Topton Lutheran Home- St. John's, Hamburg
(assoc. at Grace, Topton)

The Committee of Reference & Counsel recommends the following amendment to this resolution for adoption:

RESOLVED that the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod in Assembly urge that Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries Agency of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America commit to providing accessible, comprehensive, and holistic spiritual care through Chaplaincy services for staff and residents in its Senior Living & Housing facilities.

Rationale: The Committee of Reference and Counsel recommends this amendment because it is the discernment of the community issuing a call to determine staffing. We can encourage increased spiritual care support for staff and residents, but not the way that occurs. This amendment seeks to strengthen the resolution by encompassing all people, including staff, in its scope.