

RESOLUTION #2

Submitted by: Northwestern Minnesota Synod’s New and Renewing Congregations and Ministries Mission Table

Resolution to Establish Relationships with Peoples Church, Bemidji

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Peoples Church was started in 1998 by Pastor Bob Kelly and Carol Kelly as a ministry to the
2 poorest of the poor in Bemidji, MN; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** The Northwestern Minnesota Synod committed to this new ministry and established Peoples
4 Church as a Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community and appointed Pastor Bob
5 Kelly as the pastoral leader for this ministry in 1999; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** Peoples Church in its early stage of development suggested the possibility that one day the
7 ministry might become an ELCA congregation, the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational
8 Mission unit (formerly known as the Division for Outreach) of the ELCA, in partnership with
9 Peoples Church and the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, called Pastor Bob Kelly to be the
10 Mission Developer serving Peoples Church as a congregation under development in February
11 2002; and
- 12 **WHEREAS,** After years of developing, Peoples Church has organized as an ELCA congregation in March
13 2010; and
- 14 **WHEREAS,** In April 2010, Peoples Church extended a call to Pastor Bob Kelly to be their pastor with the
15 expressed desire to have him serve with them in a full time capacity instead of in a part-time
16 “tent-maker” mode with the intent to strengthen their on-going mission development in this
17 next new chapter in their ministry that will continue to involve and focus on befriending and
18 serving the poorest of the poor in Bemidji; and
- 19 **WHEREAS,** Peoples Church will continue its vital ministry of befriending and serving with the poorest of
20 the poor in Bemidji and model a vital ministry to be replicated in other parts of the synod and
21 beyond; and
- 22 **WHEREAS,** Peoples Church will not be self supporting in the foreseeable future, it will be self reliant as
23 an inter-dependent congregation among congregations, an equal among equals in the
24 Northwestern Minnesota Synod, inviting partnerships with congregations and individuals;
25 and be it
- 26 **RESOLVED,** that this Synod thank God for Peoples Church and for all the congregations and individuals
27 whom have partnered with them; and be it further resolved
- 28 **RESOLVED,** that this Synod in Assembly invite congregations of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod to
29 consider establishing a Mission Partner relationship with Peoples Church involving, prayers,
30 visitations and financial support; and be it further
- 31 **RESOLVED,** that this Synod in Assembly encourage congregations of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod

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to consider inviting their individual congregational members to consider the possibility of becoming an “associate member” of Peoples Church.