

1 **NWMN Synod of the ELCA**
2 **Resolution to Receive Skjeberg Lutheran Church into the Northwestern Minnesota**
3 **Synod**
4

5 WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America understands congregations,
6 synods, and the churchwide organization to be interdependent expressions of one
7 church, sharing responsibility for mission and governance (ELCA Constitution 5.01.c);

8 WHEREAS, congregations of this church exist in relationship with synods for the sake of
9 mutual accountability, mission, and oversight, and are called to participate in the life and
10 mission of this church through that synodical relationship (Model Constitution C6.01–
11 C6.03);

12 WHEREAS, the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical
13 Lutheran Church in America provide for the recognition and reception of congregations
14 within synods (ELCA Constitution 9.20);

15 WHEREAS, Skjeberg Lutheran Church has prayerfully discerned its future in mission
16 and ministry and has formally indicated its desire to transfer its synodical membership
17 from the Eastern North Dakota Synod to the Northwestern Minnesota Synod;

18 WHEREAS, Skjeberg Lutheran Church has taken official action at a duly called and
19 conducted congregational meeting to request such a transfer;

20 WHEREAS, the Eastern North Dakota Synod has taken official action to release
21 Skjeberg Lutheran Church from its synodical membership;

22 WHEREAS, Skjeberg Lutheran Church is geographically located within the established
23 territory of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod (cf. ELCA Constitution Chapter 10);

24 WHEREAS, Skjeberg Lutheran Church is no longer participating in a parish relationship
25 with a congregation of the Eastern North Dakota Synod, and therefore its affiliation with
26 the Northwestern Minnesota Synod supports faithful oversight and participation in this
27 church's mission;

28 Therefore, be it RESOLVED,

29 that the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, acting in accordance with the Constitutions,
30 Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
31 hereby receives Skjeberg Lutheran Church into its membership as a congregation of this
32 synod, pursuant to ELCA Constitution 9.20;

33 that this reception affirms the congregation's place within the interdependent life of this
34 church and its participation in the mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
35 through the Northwestern Minnesota Synod;

36 that the bishop, along with the appropriate synod staff, is authorized and directed to
37 complete all necessary administrative and ecclesial steps to effect this transfer, including
38 notification to the Office of the Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

39 that the Northwestern Minnesota Synod joyfully welcomes Skjeberg Lutheran Church
40 into our common life, giving thanks for their ministry and committing to shared
41 participation in God's mission;

42 And, be it further resolved, that this synod expresses its gratitude to the Eastern North
43 Dakota Synod for its partnership in ministry and for its collegial cooperation in this
44 transition.