

Resolution regarding Type of Synod Assembly

Submitted to the Assembly from the Synod Council

Whereas: The cost of in-person Synod Assemblies increases each year, and

Whereas: The budgets of many congregations are declining each year, and

Whereas: The environmental impact of hundreds of people traveling across the state to an in-person assembly is substantial, and

Whereas: The pandemic expanded congregational and synod capacity to successfully navigate on-line gatherings, and the attendance at Oregon Synod Assemblies held online in 2020 and 2021 resulted in increased attendance from younger and more diverse individuals, and

Whereas: Online gatherings are more accessible to students, caregivers, working people and many others, and

Whereas: Mandatory provision †S7.11. of the synod constitution reads “A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held at least triennially”, and

Whereas: Bylaw S7.11.01. of the synod constitution reads “A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held annually”, and

Whereas: Oregon Revised Statutes for Not-for-Profit Corporations requires an annual meeting, and

Whereas: Both the Synod Constitution and the Oregon Revised Statutes allow for electronic meetings, therefore

Be it Resolved: That the Oregon Synod have an in-person Assembly every third year (when possible as dictated by state and national conditions, i.e. state of emergency such as pandemic or other disasters) and an electronic Assembly in the other two years. Nothing in this resolution precludes the Synod Council of the Oregon Synod from calling a special meeting of the Assembly in exigent circumstances as necessary, such as an out-of-sequence Bishop Election, and

Be it Resolved: That the years of in-person Synod Assemblies correspond with years in which Bishop elections are held, and

Be it Resolved: That a Continuing Resolution S7.01.A22. be added to the synod constitution spelling out the above two Be it Resolved items, and

Be it Resolved: That in years of online Assemblies, a Synod Day of Learning be held to supplement the online Assembly work with workshops and learning events, and

Be it Resolved: That the Oregon Synod budget include a carryover line item that funds Synod Council expenses for Assembly, which will be held in a restricted fund for use in the year in which in-person Assembly is held, and

Be it Resolved: That congregations of the Oregon Synod also be encouraged to create a carry-over fund for the purpose of funding sending voting members, pastors and deacons to the in-person and electronic Assemblies, with the goal of spreading the higher in-person costs over a three year period.

Submitted to the 2022 Assembly of the Oregon Synod by the Oregon Synod Council.