

1 **Resolution #3, Southeastern Iowa Synod 2008 Assembly**

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3 WHEREAS, all the baptized, when they affirm their baptism, promise “to hear the  
4 Word of God” and “to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed”;

5 WHEREAS, all parents and baptismal sponsors covenant to place the holy  
6 scriptures in the hands of their children and nurture them in faith and prayer;

7 WHEREAS, pastors at their ordination vow to be diligent in their study of the  
8 Holy Scriptures; and

9 WHEREAS, the ELCA has begun a Book of Faith Initiative, inviting everyone to  
10 join the conversation, to make a commitment, and to become part of the initiative;  
11 therefore, be it

12 *RESOLVED*, that the Southeastern Iowa Synod become a Book of Faith synod,  
13 committing ourselves to live in and from the Word of God in all our meetings, assemblies  
14 and events, so that as we regularly and increasingly hear, read, study, share and are  
15 engaged by God’s Word, we lead by example in faithful service and holy living; be it  
16 further

17 *RESOLVED*, that the bishop of this synod—who “as its pastor, shall be a teacher  
18 of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this  
19 church”—lead this initiative personally, in coordination with the synod’s Book of Faith  
20 advocate and through collaborative programmatic work with congregations of the synod;  
21 be it further

22 *RESOLVED*, that all voting members of this synod assembly covenant together to  
23 begin a regular practice of Bible study and prayer, gathering with others in their  
24 congregation and/or community to speak and hear the Word from one another; be it  
25 further

26 *RESOLVED*, that this synod celebrate and continue to support and strengthen  
27 those places where Scripture is already taught and engaged, such as Women of the ELCA  
28 Bible studies, camping and campus ministries, the Center for Renewal, congregation  
29 councils, Sunday schools, and other congregational groups; and be it finally

30 *RESOLVED*, all congregations of this Synod be encouraged to become Book of  
31 Faith congregations, which will find expression by

- 32 • exploring new opportunities for engaging the Bible,  
33 • sending sufficient numbers of members to synod events for training as Bible  
34 study leaders,  
35 • including biblical study as an integral part of all meetings and groups,  
36 in order to become more fluent in the first language of faith—the language of Scripture—  
37 that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent  
38 by the Word.

39 *Submitted by The Rev. Dwight L. DuBois, and Ms. Vonna Hall.*

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41 **The Reference and Counsel Committee recommends adoption of this resolution.**