

Resolution Concerning Youth

Whereas the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is one of the largest Christian denominations in North America, with over 3,760,000 members in over 9,000 congregations; and

Whereas the Southeastern Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (SESLYO) is a part of the ELCA, representing youth in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee; and

Whereas SESLYO empowers youth to serve as leaders and provides a voice for youth within the Southeastern Synod; and

Whereas SESLYO held their annual youth assembly in Covington, Georgia on March 11-13, 2016; and

Whereas the theme of the 2016 conference was Who We Are, which is based on Ephesians 2:8: “for by grace you are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God;” and

Whereas at the 2016 conference the youth discussed ways to better serve their congregations and communities, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Southeastern Synod Council encourage all congregations of the Synod to:

1. Work with the younger youth in our congregations to foster stronger relationships and faith experiences; and,
2. Include all youth in activities regardless of ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, cultural heritage, or race; and,
3. Inform all youth of scholarship and post-secondary opportunities to continue their faith journeys; and,
4. Promote funding within congregations to allow equal opportunity for all youth to participate in youth retreats and synodical camps; and,
5. Provide opportunities for the youth to help their neighbors in times of need, both locally and globally; and,
6. Acknowledge congregationally and synod-wide the fact that the youth are the church of today and should be represented and offered opportunities to further their faith to create a strong foundation for the mission and future of the church.

Submitted by Southeastern Synod Lutheran Youth Organization