

Designation of Bishop Emeritus Status

WHEREAS, the Reverend Thomas M. Aitken has faithfully served as a Minister of Word and Sacrament of the Church since his Ordination in June of 1985 in the Minnesota Synod of the Lutheran Church in America; and,

WHEREAS, this ministry of Word and Sacrament has been exercised in the following calls, all within the territory of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod: pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Hillman, pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Platt Lake, associate pastor at First Lutheran Church in Brainerd, pastor of First Lutheran Church in International Falls, and pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church in Loman; and,

WHEREAS, the people of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America elected and extended a call to the Reverend Thomas M. Aitken to serve as the third bishop of this synod in May of 2008, and re-elected him to the Office of Bishop in May of 2014; and,

WHEREAS, for the past twelve years, he has faithfully, creatively, and passionately served in this call to the glory of God and for the good of the whole Church; and,

WHEREAS, an honorary title carries no remuneration, no authority, and no continuation of the office or duties in the Office of the Bishop, but is proposed out of sincerest respect, esteem, and gratitude for good, right and salutary service; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this Northeastern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in his final Synod Assembly as our Bishop in August of 2020, now confer upon the Reverend Thomas M. Aitken the designation of “Bishop Emeritus of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod;” and, be it further

RESOLVED, that in recognition of their excellence in leadership and our sincere appreciation for their service, the honorary title of “Bishop Emeritus of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod” be conferred upon both the Reverend Roger L. Munson and the Reverend E. Peter Strommen, the previous bishops of this synod, and upon any future bishop of this synod who faithfully fulfills the duties of the Office of Bishop.

Respectfully Submitted by the Laurentian Conference

(The Reference, Counsel and Memorial Committee received three resolutions that were nearly identical—this one from the Laurentian Conference, another from Lake Superior Conference and a conference motion to have one from the Living Waters Conference—so we have decided to forward this resolution alone to the assembly.)