**Resolution 2018-3: A Resolution on Young Adults**

WHEREAS, Young Adults[[1]](#footnote-1) of the Delaware-Maryland synod are a demographic with unique gifts and talents which, with proper support, can continue to further the mission of the Church; and

WHEREAS, Young Adults continue to be a demographic that struggles to find connectedness and formation both in local congregations and in the Church as a whole, and thus it is likely that a generational gap will persist if we neglect young adult ministry; and

WHEREAS, many Young Adults who do continue to be connected to the Church often find themselves in church service roles: chaperoning youth events, working as camp counselors, leading LYO youth in various capacities, and serving in LVC and YAGM, roles that are formative but often lack opportunities for continuing their own spiritual growth and discipleship or are disconnected from the rest of the Church; and

WHEREAS, a group of Young Adults has begun doing ministry together in the Delaware-Maryland synod under the umbrella of Practice Discipleship;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly empower the Synod Council and staff to find ways to continue supporting this emerging, shared ministry through publicity and synodical funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly encourage its members and congregations to connect Young Adults to this ministry by featuring it on websites, Facebook pages, and other social media platforms, such as Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, etc., personal invitations and inviting Practice Discipleship leaders into public spaces in our synod; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to re-examine the portion of voting members to the annual gathering of the Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly with a specific focus on increasing the representation of Young Adults within the voting body of the Assembly by considering the dates in which the Assembly is held within the constraints of the constitution.

Submitted by: Rev. Patrick Ballard (Christ Lutheran in Baltimore, MD)  
Mrs. Colleen Carpenter-Gonia (St. Peter’s Lutheran in Eastpoint, MD)  
Mr. Adam Fairchild (Grace Lutheran in Westminster, MD)  
Ms. Clara Mattucci (Hope Lutheran in New Castle, DE)  
Rev. Seminarian Karl Muhlbach (Christus Victor in Parkville, MD)  
  
Reference & Counsel recommendation: Positive.

1. Young Adults, per the ELCA definition, are anyone between the ages of 18 and 30 years old [↑](#footnote-ref-1)