

Spanish Translation/Interpretation for Synod Materials and Events

WHEREAS, 3 John 1:5-6 states, "Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God."; and

WHEREAS, when the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was formed in 1988, it was with the intention that the church would be a diverse body, inclusive and authentically reflective of the world around us. However, despite our efforts, we remain a predominantly white, middle-class church of European descent; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, in unity with the broader church, acknowledges the importance of engaging in intentional actions to reflect on our diversity, to educate ourselves about it, and to begin the work of healing. We recognize that by amplifying voices from different backgrounds, our synod becomes stronger, more authentic, and more clearly reflects the body of Christ; and

WHEREAS, the "Neighbor to Neighbor: Together in Ministry / Vecino a Vecino: Juntos en Ministerio" initiative aims to support congregations in re-imagining their role and identity within their communities, addressing issues of social and racial justice, fostering connections with neighbors, and exploring shared worship and learning opportunities. This initiative embodies a reimagined approach to living and sharing our faith in a rapidly changing society; and

WHEREAS, we also recognize that many of our neighbors in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin speak languages other than English and Spanish, and that language is an essential bridge for inclusion and community-building; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin will make every effort to translate key documents and provide interpretation for events and experiences in both English and Spanish, as a way to more fully connect with our Spanish-speaking neighbors. This commitment will also extend to exploring translation into other languages that reflect the diverse linguistic makeup of our synod; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that the costs for translation and interpretation services will be covered for two years through a Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity (STAD) Grant from the ELCA, with the possibility of exploring additional funding sources for ongoing support of this important work.