

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

Whereas, St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Lake Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, has had a long and faithful history of receiving and sharing the gifts of God, and

Whereas, the congregation's ability to maintain its program and ministry is diminishing, and

Whereas, the congregation desires to remain together as a body of believers and friends, and

Whereas, the congregation has thoughtfully and carefully considered its options for the future, and

Whereas, a merger with Bethany English Lutheran Church, Triskett Road, Cleveland, Ohio, appears to be an avenue that would serve the needs of both congregations and strengthen the Lutheran presence in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: That St. Thomas congregation invite Bethany English congregation to enter into conversations to investigate the wisdom of a merger of the two congregations, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the two congregations form a merger team of four members from each congregation with the assignment of developing a merger plan to offer to each congregation in May 2014 for study and decision, and be it further

RESOLVED: That in this and all matters we ask God's blessing upon our efforts, plans, and decisions.

This resolution will be presented to St. Thomas congregation for consideration and decision at its annual meeting on January 26, 2014, and, if it passes, forwarded to Bethany English for consideration and decision at its annual meeting in February 2014.

Signed, St. Thomas Council members

Affirmed: Interim Bishop _____

Date _____