

RESOLUTIONS

Any voting member may offer a resolution from the floor which concerns business at hand. Resolutions of a general character and not concerned with the business at hand must be submitted on the appropriate form to the Resolutions Committee by the close of business on the first day of the Fall Gathering.

The Resolutions Committee shall report to the Fall Gathering with its recommendation to handle or not consider resolutions designed as new business. A two-thirds vote of the voting members is required to add the item of new business to the agenda.

Resolution forms are available in the Voting Member Packet or from the Vice President.

How can a resolution help? (Contributed by Mary Ann Spengler)

Resolutions are a means for congregational units and Voting Members to introduce issues that they wish to have addressed by the Fall Gathering and some form of action taken. For example -- conservation of water, recycling, care of our bodies, personal spiritual renewal, concern for abused children, etc., etc.

The format includes several "WHEREAS clauses" to describe the issue, concern, problem. Following the "WHEREAS clauses" RESOLVED clauses clearly state the proposed solution and define requested action.

Three parts:

The TOPIC - issue, concern, problem

WHY - WHEREAS clauses

HOW - RESOLVED clauses

For example:

The following was shortened from a concern brought to the 2008 triennial Fall Gathering of Women of the ELCA:

TOPIC: Minimizing or eliminating use of plastics

WHEREAS: Each year an estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide and billions end up as litter each year in landfills: and

WHEREAS: Increasing reports on human health, effects of chemicals used in plastic products; and

(As many WHEREAS's as you wish)

RESOLVED: That Women of the FI/BA SWO take BOLD steps to be advocates and make a dedicated effort to look for alternative ways to minimize their use of plastic items.