

**GENERAL SYNOD 2023
RESOLUTION**

Resolution Number C001

Subject: Affirm Lund Principle and “Towards a Renewed Ecumenical Strategy”

Moved By: Jesse Zink

Seconded By: Bruce Myers

Be it resolved that this General Synod:

1. Re-affirm its commitment to the principle first articulated at the Lund meeting of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches in 1952, and endorsed by this General Synod in 1989, that churches should “act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately”;
2. Re-affirm its commitment to the 2004 document “Towards a Renewed Ecumenical Strategy” that calls on the church to act with other Christians “in resistance to the forces of death and darkness, in affirmation of life and light”;
3. Encourage the General Synod Office, the Council of General Synod, and the whole church to keep the Lund principle and “Towards a Renewed Ecumenical Strategy” at the forefront of their consideration in every aspect of our life and work.

Source:

Submitted By:

Does this motion contain within it any financial implications? Yes **No**

If yes, has the General Synod Expenditures Committee considered the implications? Yes No

EXPLANATORY NOTE/BACKGROUND

The Lund Principle calls on churches to “act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately.” It was first put forth a meeting of the World Council of Churches Faith and Order Commission in 1952 and has been affirmed and re-affirmed since then in numerous church gatherings. In 1989, the General Synod (Act 48) called on “all levels of the church to take seriously the Lund Principle.”

In 2004, the General Synod adopted a declaration called “Towards a Renewed Ecumenical Strategy.” This declaration commits the church “To encourage and equip all in the church to walk the way of ecumenism, so that all will come to know the hope for the restoration of the full visible unity of Christ’s church.” It is also calls the church to “recognize and respond faithfully to those moments when God in Christ reveals to us our mystical unity as one body and calls us to act in solidarity with others in resistance to the forces of death and darkness, in affirmation of life and light.”

In spite of these past affirmations, it is clear that the Anglican Church of Canada continues to act separately from other Christians even when there are not “deep differences of conviction.” For instance, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada have had, in recent years, separate commissions on anti-racism, doing largely similar work on parallel tracks. This duplication and separated work harms our witness to the gospel of reconciliation.

The future of the Jesus way of life in Canada will be an ecumenical one. This resolution reminds the church of what we have already committed to and encourages the whole church to hold these important ideas at the forefront in their coming years of work.

PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTION (G)

In the normal course, an ordinary motion must be passed by a majority of the members of General Synod present and voting together.

Six members of General Synod may, prior to the question being put, require a vote by Orders, with a majority of each Order being necessary to pass.

If a question passes on a Vote by Orders, any six members (two from each of three different dioceses) may immediately before the next item of business require a vote to be taken by dioceses. A motion passes if a majority (or a tie) of dioceses vote in favour.

Source: Sections 4 and 5 of the Declaration of Principles and sections 18, 19 and 20 of the Rules of Order and Procedure.