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1. WITNESS

**To Support the Wittenberg Project for the Quincentennial
Celebration of the Lutheran Reformation**

RESOLUTION 1-07B

Overture L1-19, (*TB*, p. 31); Report 1-7 (*CW*, p. 18)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, walking alongside its German partner church, the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK), and with Concordia Publishing House, through the International Lutheran Society of Wittenberg (ILSW), seeks to honor our Lutheran heritage as we approach the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by nurturing and strengthening the faith of Christians and introducing the Christian faith to non-Christians; and

WHEREAS, The time for Lutheran teaching is now for visitors, scholars, and students—to journey to Wittenberg to learn the history, culture, and the effect of the Reformation; and

WHEREAS, Wittenberg welcomes the heirs of Luther’s legacy by welcoming home those who claim Wittenberg and its famed friar as the cradle of the great Reformation legacy; and

WHEREAS, The ILSW envisions a modern, renovated facility serving as an historic center for confessing Lutherans worldwide; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, the Synod’s Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund helped to purchase an historic structure in Wittenberg’s town center, the Old Latin School (1564), making possible a new era of Lutheran scholarship, outreach, witness, service, and education; and

WHEREAS, The ILSW, under the name “The Wittenberg Project” plans to renovate the Old Latin School and provide a comfortable, welcoming space designed for educational and cultural programs; for short-term guest housing for visitors, scholars, teachers, students, LCMS universities and seminaries; for research, theological writing, and as a platform for Gospel proclamation; and

WHEREAS, The Wittenberg Project can serve as a welcome center, establishing a clear and compelling Lutheran presence, and opening doors to further witness and mercy work in the community; and

WHEREAS, The quincentennial anniversary in 2017 of the posting of the Ninety-Five Theses is refocusing the world’s attention on Luther and Wittenberg, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the International Lutheran Society of Wittenberg will have a rare and timely opportunity to welcome confessional Lutherans and visitors from around the world; and

WHEREAS, The Wittenberg Project will provide exposure to the legacy of Luther and the unique witness of Scripture and Lutheran Confessions (that we are justified by grace through faith in Christ alone); therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS in convention encourage all congregations and individuals within the Synod to support The Wittenberg Project prayerfully and financially; and be it further

Resolved, That all glory be given to God for the life, work, ministry, and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther.