

1 **RESOLUTION ON DEALING WITH DEPRESSION AND INTENTIONAL DEATH (OR**
2 **SUICIDE) IN OUR CHURCHES**

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4 WHEREAS, life expectancy in the United States is decreasing (partially resulting from
5 intentional death) and intentional death in the United States is increasing;

6 WHEREAS, studies suggest that over 75% of railroad trespass deaths are intentional;

7 WHEREAS, in Northeastern Illinois, approximately 5% of all intentional deaths occur
8 on railroad property;

9 WHEREAS, Jesus commands us in John 13:34-35 to love one another;

10 WHEREAS, Jesus requires us to care for our neighbor in Luke 10:36-37;

11 WHEREAS, depression that has lasted over two weeks has become a clinical problem
12 (clinical depression) which almost always requires medical intervention;
13 therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, that each congregation have resources available to guide individuals with
15 clinical depression to help in combatting their depression before thoughts
16 of suicide occur; and that the framers of this motion assemble a packet of
17 appropriate resources to be assembled and sent to each congregation;

18 RESOLVED, that each congregation be made aware of the ELCA's commitment to
19 suicide prevention;

20 RESOLVED, that each congregation have the "National Suicide Prevention Lifeline"
21 contact information (1-800-273-8255) posted in conspicuous places;

22 RESOLVED, that each congregation will, in some way, address the issue of recognizing
23 depression and loneliness amongst their members; and

24 RESOLOVED, that each congregation will in some way develop resources for family
25 and community members who have experienced the loss of a loved one
26 through suicide.

27 Submitted by:

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29 Dupage Railroad Safety Council

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31 *Mr. B Bernhard F Biederman, Member

32 *Rev. Timothy C. Linstrom, Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Lincolnshire, Illinois

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34 Dr. Lanny F. Wilson, MD, Chair

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36 *Signatories