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2 **Resolution in support of Sacred Tiny House Communities**
3 **(submitted by Lutheran Advocacy Minnesota**
4 **and supported by the following Conference Assemblies:**
5 **Laurentian, Living Waters, Heartland & Kettle River)**
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7 WHEREAS, Minnesota has a severe lack of affordable housing; and

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9 WHEREAS, this shortage is particularly severe for those who are chronically homeless; and

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11 WHEREAS, these individuals often have suffered significant trauma, loss of family and
12 relationships; and

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14 WHEREAS, most programs address only the need for housing; and

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16 WHEREAS, the non-profit *Settled* has developed a model of Sacred Tiny House Communities in
17 which churches, synagogues, mosques and other religious organizations create such
18 communities on their premises for those experiencing homelessness which include intentional
19 “neighbors” (missioners) trained in addressing trauma and other issues; and

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21 WHEREAS, these communities can be created with no government cost; and

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23 WHEREAS, some municipalities believe any such community should be allowed only if the city
24 determines it wants to allow these to be present in their jurisdiction, regardless of a faith
25 community's call to serve these neighbors in need; and

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27 WHEREAS, this form of housing is not currently recognized under Minnesota law; and

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29 WHEREAS, we as people of faith are called in Isaiah 1:17 to care for those among us: "Learn to
30 do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case
31 of the widow"; now, therefore be it

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33 RESOLVED, that the Northeastern Minnesota Synod endorse the Sacred Tiny House Community
34 concept; and be it further

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36 RESOLVED, that the synod and congregations will work with Lutheran Advocacy-MN, the Joint
37 Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC), and *Settled* by contacting legislators to encourage passage
38 of the bipartisan Sacred Tiny House Community Legislation which would both a) allow tiny
39 houses of less than 400 square feet in these communities, and b) allow such communities to be
40 hosted at the discretion of the faith communities themselves unimpeded by local “not in my
41 back yard” (NIMBY) bans; and be it finally

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43 RESOLVED, that the synod will encourage congregational participation through education about
44 homelessness in Minnesota and in the creation of Sacred Tiny House Communities through a
45 variety of means ranging from hosting a Tiny House Sacred Community on their property, to
46 receive both monetary and in kind* gifts to help in the ongoing work with such communities
47 (*such as helping build or furnish a tiny house, providing volunteers, or helping provide an
48 occasional communal meal or activity for a Sacred Tiny House Community).