

Exhibit J.2

September 2021

SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD

A COVENANT OF LEADERSHIP

As members of the Synod Council, we are entrusted with the responsibility of leadership of the Synod. We seek to honor our responsibility through covenants to God, the Synod, our pastors and staff, and each other. These covenants express the call to each of us to “equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.” Ephesians 4:12-13.

Our Promises to God

We promise to pray, alone and together, to God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.
We promise to thank God for our blessings, individually and collectively.
We promise to ask for God’s help in our lives and in our work for our Church and our Synod. We promise to listen to God’s answer to us.

Our Promises to Our Synod Family

We promise to demonstrate our leadership and commitment to our Synod by our example.
We promise to support our Synod’s pastors and staff so that their efforts can be most productive.

We promise to support the leaders of the Southeastern Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Lutheran Church worldwide, in our shared goal of building up the body of Christ.

We promise to try to discover through prayer and discernment what is best for our Synod as a whole, not what may be best for us or for some small group in the Synod.

We promise to foster healthy communication by seeking to understand and define the authority and responsibility of staff, Synod Council, and the Synod Congregations and its members and create clear avenues for policy and decision-making and conflict resolution.

We promise to identify and respond to issues timely, thoughtfully, diligently, and respectfully. **Our Promises to Each Other on the Synod Council**

We promise to respect and care for each other. Matthew 19:19 (“Love your neighbor as yourself.”). We promise to treat our time on the Council as an opportunity to make an important gift to our Synod.

We promise to listen with an open, nonjudgmental mind to the words and ideas of the others in our Synod and on the Council.

We promise to discuss, debate, and disagree openly in Council meetings, expressing ourselves as clearly, honestly and directly as possible.

We promise to support the final decision of the Council, whether it reflects our view or not.