



## HopeWood Outdoors Line Item Motion

### FINAL PROPOSED

**Synod Council places before the Synod Assembly a motion to reduce the amount to be donated to HopeWood Outdoors in 2024** from \$40,000 to \$20,000. This motion comes from Synod Council with a first and second.

#### **Background:**

At the 2023 Synod Assembly, the assembly voted to increase the HopeWood Outdoors line item from \$0 to \$40,000 without an attending suggestion for expense reduction or income increase. This increased the Synod Council proposed budget from a deficit of \$80,000 to \$120,000.

#### **Rationale:**

Our Synod has seen years of decline in mission support offered by congregations to our shared mission in Northeastern Ohio.

This decrease has contributed to our projected deficit budgets for the past 7+ years and to our substantial deficit of 2023-2024 of nearly \$250,000.

While Synod Council appreciates that Hopewood Outdoors and camping ministries in general are crucial to discipleship and may still be a pathway for rostered leaders to discover a call to ministry, they are also cognizant of their responsibility to steward the available funds of our Synod.

Your Synod Council considered that we as a Synod were contributing to other entities and deepening our deficit spending.

With no income side change, your Synod Council also saw that the funds available to cover deficits are exhaustible within the next 5 years at the current rate of spending.

Because of their stewardship responsibility, the Synod Council took the additional step of reducing our contribution to the ELCA Churchwide entity in this fiscal year by \$100,000.