

Final Update 5-10-2010

2010

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions are under consideration at Sec. Swartlings' office.

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RESOLUTION 10-01

A Memorial to the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly
to Rescind the Four Recommendations on Ministry Policy
Adopted by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly

As submitted by author

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has adopted the social statement, “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust,” as well as the Four Recommendations on Ministry Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Confessions state that “We believe, teach, and confess that the only rule and guiding principle according to which all teachings and teachers are to be evaluated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments alone” (Book of Concord, Formula of Concord, Epitome, Rule and Norm); and

WHEREAS, the Confession of Faith of the ELCA states in addition that “This church accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life” (ELCA Constitution, 2.03); and

WHEREAS, nearly 2000 years of Christian teaching, faith, and practice have been unanimous in interpreting these Scriptures to say that marriage is between one man and one woman, that homosexual behavior is contrary to the will of God, and that the ordained leadership of the Church is especially expected to conform itself to Biblical standards; and

WHEREAS, most Christian churches today—including many of our ecumenical partners as well as most churches with membership in the Lutheran World Federation—continue to understand the Scriptural word to clearly say that marriage is between one man and one woman, that homosexual behavior is contrary to the will of God, and that the ordained leadership of the Church is especially expected to conform itself to Biblical standards; and

WHEREAS, by adopting the Four Recommendations on Ministry Policy, the ELCA has put this church outside the teaching, faith, and practice of the Church as a whole and the Lutheran family of churches in particular, and has further created devastating rifts within our congregations; and

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Ohio Synod, meeting in assembly in Bowling Green in 2009, voted to oppose the Four Recommendations on Ministry Policy, and to retain traditional teaching and practice with respect to homosexuality and the church’s expectations for ordained leadership; and

WHEREAS, we desire to see this church again placed squarely within the bounds of the teaching, faith and practice of the Church as a whole, and the Lutheran family of churches in particular; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly memorialize the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to rescind its 2009 resolutions allowing for the recognition publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly memorialize the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to rescind its 2009 resolutions allowing for publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships; to serve as rostered leaders in this church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly memorialize the 2011 ELCA Churchwide

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Assembly to restore the expectations of rostered leaders set forth in “Vision and Expectations” to the standards that were in effect prior to August 2009.

As Submitted by:

Pastor Mark Brodbeck, First Lutheran Church, Tiffin

Chaplain Phillip Clark, Command Chaplain, US Navy

Pastor Paul Gruetter, Grace Lutheran Church, Fremont

Pastor Keith Hunsinger, Saint John’s Lutheran Church, Oak Harbor

Pastor Kevin Mohr, English Lutheran Church, Bluffton

Pastor Steve Ramsey, Good Hope Lutheran Church, Arlington

Pastor Kathleen Suggitt, Grace Lutheran Church, Castalia

Pastor David Tinker, Saint John’s Lutheran Church, Oak Harbor

Pastor George Zornow, First Lutheran Church, Leipsic

The Council of Good Hope Lutheran Church, Arlington

Church Council of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Deshler

Church Council of First Lutheran Church, Leipsic

Date Submitted: February 25, 2010

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RESOLUTION 10-02
A Memorial to the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly
Concerning the Bound Conscience of the
Northwestern Ohio Synod

As submitted by author

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA has adopted the social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” and the Four Recommendations on Ministry Policies; and

WHEREAS, CA09.05.23 states “that in the implementation of any resolutions on ministry policies, the ELCA commit itself to bear one another’s burdens, love the neighbor, and respect the bound conscience of all,” and

WHEREAS, the document “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” shows a “conscience-bound lack of consensus in this church” (lines 452 – 53 of the Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies in Part V of the Pre-Assembly Report); and

WHEREAS, as has been shown in various forums hosted by the Northwestern Ohio Synod, a significant disagreement within the boundaries of our synod as to the implantation of the Four Ministry Recommendations of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly has been observed, and

WHEREAS, CA09.05.27 in the 2nd “RESOLVED” states “that this church, because of its commitment to respect the bound consciences of all, declare its intent to allow structured flexibility in decision-making regarding the approving or disapproving in candidacy and the extending or not extending of a call to rostered service of a person who is otherwise qualified and who is living or contemplates living in a publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gendered relationship”; and

WHEREAS, it is evident from these portions of the materials adopted and presented at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly that the “all” whose “bound conscience” the actions of the assembly have committed the ELCA to honor include “synods”; and

WHEREAS, this “bound conscience” includes the ability to choose not to approve, call, commission, consecrate, or ordain someone in a publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gendered relationship; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has no legal vehicle to recognize those involved in a publicly accountable, monogamous, same gendered relationship; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly urge this synod’s candidacy committee not to endorse candidates in same gendered relationships, even if these relationships are presented as *lifelong*, publicly accountable and monogamous; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly urge the synod office not to accept mobility papers from candidates in same gendered relationships, even if these relationships are presented as *lifelong*, publicly accountable and monogamous; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly urge the office of the Bishop not to sign letters of call for candidates in same gendered relationships, even if these relationships are presented as *lifelong*, publicly accountable and monogamous; and be it further

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RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly draft a letter to Trinity Lutheran Seminary, requesting that students in same gendered relationships not be allowed to share seminary housing, even if those relationships are presented as lifelong, publicly accountable and monogamous.

As Submitted by:

Pastor Mark Brodbeck, First Lutheran Church, Tiffin

Chaplain Phillip Clark, Command Chaplain, US Navy

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Pastor Keith Hunsinger, Saint John's Lutheran Church, Oak Harbor

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The council of Good Hope Lutheran Church, Arlington

Church Council of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Deshler

Church Council of First Lutheran Church, Leipsic

Date Submitted: February 25, 2010

RESOLUTION 10-03
Memorial to the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly
Regarding Joint Membership in Two Lutheran Synods

As submitted by author

WHEREAS, the adoption of the social statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* and the adoption of the Four Recommendations on Ministry Policy regarding the recognition of publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gendered relationships by the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly has placed many ELCA congregations and pastors into conscience bound conflict with the ELCA as a whole, and has created inner turmoil and dissension within many other congregations; and

WHEREAS, CA09.05.23 now states “that in the implementation of any resolutions on ministry policies, the ELCA commit itself to bear one another’s burden, love the neighbor, and respect the bound conscience of all”; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Ohio Synod memorialize the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to make the necessary changes to the ELCA Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA, the Constitution for Synods, and the Model Constitution for Congregations in order to accomplish the following:

- a) that congregations may simultaneously hold and maintain membership in two Lutheran churches (i.e., national ecclesiastical church organizations) without fear of discipline or prejudice;
- b) that all persons on the ELCA roster may simultaneously hold and maintain membership in two Lutheran churches without fear of discipline or prejudice;
- c) that all rostered persons holding such dual membership be free to choose which organization with whom they wish to work in respect to pension and health benefits;
- d) that all rostered persons and congregations holding such dual membership maintain full right of voice and vote within their current ELCA synod and be able to participate fully within ELCA Churchwide processes of representation and administration, all while being under the disciplinary structures of both Lutheran church bodies; and
- e) that all rostered persons holding such dual membership be free to accept a call to serve in either synodical setting.

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Church Council of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Deshler

Church Council of First Lutheran Church, Leipsic

Date Submitted: February 25, 2010

RESOLUTION 10-04

RESOLUTION TO ELCA CHURCH COUNCIL TO RESCIND CHANGES TO VISION AND EXPECTATIONS

As submitted by author

WHEREAS, ordination is not a civil right, but a calling from God that is recognized by the Church; and

WHEREAS, the Church has always held certain expectations of the people who follow God's call to ordination; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Church Council has articulated those expectations in the document “Vision and Expectations;” and

WHEREAS, those expectations continue to be important in the life of the Church, its congregations, and the individuals seeking ordination; and

WHEREAS, an exception to those expectations has been approved by the action of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Ohio Synod request that the ELCA Church Council rescind any changes made to “Vision and Expectations” and return to the original language of the document; and be it further

RESOLVED, that candidates for ordination who are in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships make application to the candidacy committee for an exception to the provisions of “Vision and Expectations” and that such exceptions are granted on a case-by-case basis.

As Submitted by:

Rev. Steven Edmiston, St. Paul, Jenera on March 12, 2010

Approved by Council action, March 9, 2010

St. Paul Evangelical Church
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