

RESOLUTION #1 – 2010 Compensation and Benefits Guidelines for Pastors and Associates in Ministry

WHEREAS, congregations of the Eastern North Dakota Synod request and appreciate the aid and counsel of their companion congregations in this synod and synod leadership in ascertaining fair, equitable, and adequate compensation and benefits for pastors and professional staff; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern North Dakota Executive Committee has discussed and approved these guidelines and commends them to the 2009 Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly and to the congregations of this synod for deliberation and use; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2009 Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly adopt and commend to the congregations of this synod these guidelines; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this assembly approve the publication and distribution of these “Guidelines” to congregations of this synod through the usual and appropriate means employed by the synod office.

Submitted by the Eastern North Dakota Synod Council.

SA.09.05.07 Moved by Synod Council, seconded by Joy Vaagene, to adopt Resolution #1 as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

RESOLUTION #2 – Stewardship

- WHEREAS, through our baptism, all Christians are called to be good stewards, that is, people “who manage the resources God has given, in the world and in the church,” (Donald M. McKim, *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996, 270); and
- WHEREAS, Jesus Christ, himself, the preeminent steward, instructed his disciples of every time and place that, “From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded,” (Luke 12:48b, NRSV); and
- WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Eastern North Dakota Synod (S6.03.e.5) and the model Constitution for congregations in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (C4.03.9) both include in their Statements of Purpose that they shall encourage financial support for the work of our church by individuals and congregations; and
- WHEREAS, when it comes to good financial stewardship, we often seek to educate and encourage all the baptized to work towards giving 10% of their income to their congregation (using the biblical model of the tithe as the goal for our giving in response to all that God has given us); and
- WHEREAS, we teach that we offer our gifts to God, because all that we have, ourselves, our time and our possessions were first God’s gifts to us; and
- WHEREAS, God’s call to faithful giving, (“*tithing*”), is not a call to burden or despair but is God’s call to spiritual discipline in regards to material possessions. Luther described the state of sinners, (that is *all of us*), as *incurvatus in se*, “curved-in-on-self.” This sinful focus on self fuels our sins of greed, idolatry, and consumeristic materialism. Furthermore, just as this sinful condition affects the individual, it also affects us corporately as a “turned-in-on-self” congregation. God’s call to the spiritual discipline of tithing is designed not only to help the end recipient of our gift but as a “lifting up” of our focus away from our *selves* both as individuals and congregations to the world around us; and
- WHEREAS, the ministries undertaken by the Synod on behalf of our many congregations and members further the mission of the Gospel, while often requiring funding; be it therefore
- RESOLVED, that this Synod thank God for those congregations whose synodical benevolence is currently greater than 10% of their income and continue to encourage these congregations to model generous stewardship of their financial resources, while at the same time striving to continue growing in their giving as they are able; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that this Synod in Assembly invite the congregations of the Eastern North Dakota Synod to consider establishing as a goal the support of programs and

ministries of the Eastern North Dakota Synod by giving at least 10% of congregational income to the synod by means of the synodical benevolence (“mission support”), characterized by congregational Statements of Intent (SOI); and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Synod in Assembly encourage those congregations whose synodical benevolence is currently below that 10% goal to endeavor to increase their efforts within their congregation to educate and encourage a generous growth in their giving in hopes of achieving and exceeding this 10% goal.

Submitted by Pastor John Bradford, First Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND and Pastor Rafe Allison, Peace Lutheran Church, Devils Lake, ND.

SA.09.05.08 Rafe Alison moved Resolution #2, second by Bob Scheurer. **MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED**

SA.09.05.09 Motion to amend by Mike Koesterman, second by Doug Norquist, to strike words in the 2nd resolve as follows: “This support would be in addition to the financial support that many congregations are already providing both to synodical and Churchwide ministries, as well as to other local and global ministries;” **MOTION CARRIED** For – 191; Against – 146

SA.09.05.10 Motion to amend by Kristen Larson-Schmidt, second by Troy Troftgruben, to replace the work “synodical” in line one of the first resolve to “missional” and to strike words in line two of resolve 2 “support of programs and ministries of the EaND Synod by” add after income to in line 4 “ministries outside their congregations, including” and strike all of resolve 3. **MOTION FAILED**

RESOLUTION #3 – Affirmation of all God’s people

WHEREAS, the Eastern North Dakota (EaND) Synod of the ELCA at its 1989 assembly adopted Resolution 25 – Affirmation of Faith* welcoming and encouraging gay and lesbian people into full participation in the life of the church; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the EaND Synod affirms its commitment to be publicly engaged in inclusive ministry with its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered brothers and sisters in Christ; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the EaND Synod directs its Hunger and Justice Committee to create opportunities for education and dialogue within the Synod regarding this commitment.

Submitted by the Eastern North Dakota Synod Hunger and Justice Committee and “Visions of Hope in Action” – Lutherans Concerned/North America – Fargo, ND Chapter

*RESOLUTION 25 - AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as a community of people of God is called to minister to all people in our world, knowing that the world is often an unloving place of alienation and brokenness, and

WHEREAS, Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness, and we are challenged by the gospel to be agents of healing within our society, and

WHEREAS, the evangelical nature of our church can be signaled by a change in our thinking and behaving to eliminate discrimination that tears a rift in our church family,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assembly of the Eastern North Dakota Synod adopt the following affirmation:

That gay and lesbian people share with all others the worth that comes from being individuals created by God;

That gay and lesbian people are welcome within the membership of the church upon making the same affirmation of faith that all people make;

That as members of the church, gay and lesbian people are expected and encouraged to share in the sacramental and general life of its congregations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America undertakes a comprehensive study of human sexuality and Christian life.

SA.09.05.11 Howard Barlow moved Resolution #3, second by Ron Ellingson. **MOTION CARRIED** For – 213; Against – 161; Doug Norquist requested his vote be recorded as abstained.

RESOLUTION #4-a - A memorial concerning the Human Sexuality Social Statement from the Eastern North Dakota Synod to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly

WHEREAS, the Task Force for ELCA Studies in Sexuality has earnestly studied and struggled with these matters for eight years, and their work models and invites mutually respectful dialogue about sexuality throughout this church; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Social Statement powerfully proclaims this church's teachings on trust, love, and service to the neighbor as the proper foundation of sexuality, while honestly recognizing that there is no consensus regarding same-gender relationships or the rostered ministry of people in them; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Church Council, at its March 2009 meeting, voted by an overwhelming margin to recommend to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality and its implementing resolutions; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Eastern North Dakota Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to adopt the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality and its implementing resolutions, as recommended by the ELCA Church Council.

Submitted by the Eastern North Dakota Synod Hunger and Justice Committee

SA.09.05.13 Ron Ellingson moved a substitution, Resolution #4-a, second by Howard Barlow.
MOTION CARRIED For – 226; Against - 135

**RESOLUTION #5 – Support for Lutheran Social Services of ND
providing healing, help and hope**

WHEREAS, Matthew, Chapter 25, verses 35-36, 40 reads: brothers and sisters, ³⁵“for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”, and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s constitution states the church shall serve in response to God’s love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace, and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless and committing itself to their needs; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota serves as the social ministry arm of the Eastern North Dakota Synod of the ELCA, assisting one in nine North Dakotans in 2008; and

WHEREAS, LSS of ND, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2009, has a mission of: *guided by God’s love and grace, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota brings healing, help and hope*, and

WHEREAS, the Eastern ELCA Synod of North Dakota is one of three corporate members of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota is conducting a \$6 million capital appeal to better serve clients and communities throughout the state; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2009 Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly declares its support for Lutheran Social Services to further its mission of bringing healing, help and hope through a successful appeal; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2009 Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly encourages each congregation to participate in Lutheran Social Services’ 90th anniversary activities.

Submitted by Robert Sanderson, Chief Executive Officer, LSS-ND and Rev. Bruce Vold, Trinity Lutheran Church, Carrington, ND

SA.09.05.14 The Committee of Reference and Council moved Resolution #5, second by Brian Jodock. **MOTION CARRIED**

RESOLUTION #6 – A memorial concerning the recommendation on Ministry Policies from the Eastern North Dakota Synod to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly

WHEREAS, the ELCA Church Council, at its March 2009 meeting, voted to transmit to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly a Recommendation on Ministry Policies; and

WHEREAS, the Recommendation on Ministry Policies allows a way to maintain a uniform standard and process for candidacy and call throughout this church while respecting the bound consciences of all; and

WHEREAS, the time has come for both those in this church who support publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous same-gender relationships and those who oppose them to join together in creating a means to continue living together faithfully in the midst of disagreement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Eastern North Dakota Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to adopt the four parts of the proposed Recommendation on Ministry Policies, as transmitted by the ELCA Church Council.

Submitted by the Eastern North Dakota Synod Hunger and Justice Committee

SA.09.05.15 Motion by Roger Brockmeyer, second by Dorothy Barlow, to approve Resolution #6. **MOTION FAILED** For – 167; Against - 187