

**RESOLUTION #1 - TO REMOVE THE SOCIAL STATEMENT
“HUMAN SEXUALITY: GIFT AND TRUST”***

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in accordance with ELCA bylaw 12.12.01, adopted a social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” by exactly a two-thirds vote; and

WHEREAS, the social statement has generated substantial disagreement and debate among faithful members of the ELCA;

WHEREAS, members of the Eastern North Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America believe that the social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” should be reconsidered and removed [revised]; and

WHEREAS, “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” expressly provides for reconsideration of a social statement by the Churchwide Assembly following its adoption and its removal or revision; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly direct the Eastern North Dakota Synod Council to request the Church Council to request the Churchwide Assembly to reconsider and remove [revise] the social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns.”.

* The “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” provides a process for reconsideration of a social statement. This process applies in lieu of the motion to rescind/amend something previously adopted as addressed in *Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised* (10th ed.), section 35. The relevant provision of the ELCA policy on p. 17 states as follows:

Churchwide Assemblies may reconsider previously adopted social statements. Such reconsideration may involve either a revision or removal of the statement. This may be done in two ways:

1. A Churchwide Assembly, by a two-thirds vote, may call for the reconsideration of a social statement at the next assembly. Subsequent to such a vote, the social statement shall be referred to the Church in Society unit for re-study. The proposed change and the reasons for it shall be made available to this church with an official notice of such proposed action to be sent to the synods by the secretary of this church at least three months prior to the Churchwide Assembly at which it will be considered. A two-thirds vote of the assembly shall be required to revise or remove the social statement.

2. The Church Council by a two-thirds vote of its voting members may ask the Churchwide Assembly to reconsider a social statement. Such Church Council action must be taken no later than at the Church Council meeting in the autumn prior to the assembly. The proposed change and the reasons for it shall then be made available to this church with an official notice of such proposed action to be

sent to the synods by the secretary of this church at least three months prior to the Churchwide Assembly. A two-thirds vote of the assembly shall be required to reconsider the statement and also to revise or remove it. Both actions may occur at the same assembly.

Submitted by Arlene Lillestol, Duane Lillestol, Jeanette Johnson, James Martinson, Tammy Martinson, Rosamond Hogness, Orvin Hogness, Marlene Hogness, Donald Wehlander, Rev. G.O. Elwood & Elsie Skarpness, Amy J. Erickson, Melinda Mund, Arlin Mund, Ken Quam, Tom Hogness, Wanda Hogness, Ryan Hogness, Harlan Hogness, Sandy Hogness, Raymond Martinson, Karen Krause, Allison Halmrast, Joel Halvorson, Loran Hudson, Mona Hudson, Annette Hudson, Mack Hudson, Trevor Martinson, Vickie Berndt, Helga G. Hogness, Justine Gibbon, Jean Gion, Mary Alice Mund, Daniel Mund, Dawn Mund, Stephen Mund
Paul Mund, congregational president
Members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, rural Milnor, ND

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council, Hillsboro, ND

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council, Gackle, ND

SA.10.04.04 Motion by Jessica Arneson, second by Dan Forsberg to adopt Resolution #1.

SA.10.04.05 Motion by Bob Bekkerus, second by Jon Nelson to end debate and vote on motion #SA.10.04.04 (above)

Motion Carried.

Resolution #1 Failed. Yes – 179; No - 249

RESOLUTION #2 - 2011 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 2010 Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly and to the congregations of this synod for deliberation and use; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2010 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.10.04.06 Motion by Joel Kangas, second by Nancy Rader to adopt Resolution #2. **Motion Carried.** Guidelines are attached to these minutes.

RESOLUTION #3 - MEMORIAL TO RESCIND ACTIONS ON MINISTRY POLICIES

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted resolutions on ministry policies that included a commitment to “finding ways for people in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church” [CA09.05.26] and also included a process of “structured flexibility” that would eliminate the prohibition on rostered service by individuals in such relationships while not imposing such service on any expression of this church [CA09.05.27]; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with and in order to implement the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA Church Council has amended the policy on reinstatement to the roster and has considered amendments to “Visions and Expectations,” “Definition and Guidelines for Discipline,” the “Candidacy Manual,” and other documents; and

WHEREAS, members of the Eastern North Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America seek the rescission [amendment] of the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on ministry policies and of the actions adopted by the Church Council to implement them and desire the restoration of ministry policies that authorize sexual intimacy for rostered persons only in the context of heterosexual marriage; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly memorialize the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as follows:

- (1) to rescind actions CA09.05.26 and CA09.05.27 of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly; and
- (2) to direct the appropriate churchwide units and offices to prepare, the Committee on Appeals to make, and the ELCA Church Council to approve and adopt, appropriate amendments to the policy documents, which were revised in response to those prior actions, in order to re-establish the prohibition of rostered service by non-celibate homosexual persons and to restore the requirement for rostered persons that sexual intimacy take place only in the context of heterosexual marriage.

Submitted by Arlene Lillestol, Duane Lillestol, Jeanette Johnson, James Martinson, Tammy Martinson, Rosamond Hogness, Orvin Hogness, Marlene Hogness, Donald Wehlander, Rev. G.O. Elwood & Elsie Skarpness, Amy J. Erickson, Melinda Mund, Arlin Mund, Ken Quam, Tom Hogness, Wanda Hogness, Ryan Hogness, Harlan Hogness, Sandy Hogness, Raymond Martinson, Karen Krause, Allison Halmrast, Joel Halvorson, Loran Hudson, Mona Hudson,

Annette Hudson, Mack Hudson, Trevor Martinson, Vickie Berndt,
Helga G. Hogness, Justine Gibbon, Jean Gion, Mary Alice Mund, Daniel Mund,
Dawn Mund, Stephen Mund
Paul Mund, congregational president
Members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, rural Milnor, ND

Bethany Lutheran Church, Hatton, ND

St. John Lutheran Church, Hatton, ND

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council, Gackle, ND

Zion Lutheran Church Council, Harwood

Pastor Russell Christiansen, First Lutheran Church, New Rockford, ND

Pastor David Killeen, Trinity Lutheran, Lisbon, ND

SA.10.04.09 Motion by Ken Iverson, second by Rollie Blick to adopt Resolution #3.
Motion Failed. Division of the House found: Yes – 190; No – 213

SA.10.04.10 Motion by Denise Parrello, second by Terry Monson to amend Resolution #3, by striking the word *heterosexual* where it appears in Resolution #3. **Motion Failed.**

RESOLUTION #4 - Regarding Ratification by Individual Congregations

WHEREAS, The ELCA Churchwide Assembly considers statements, resolutions, and policies that have a major impact on congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

WHEREAS, these statements, resolutions, and policies are adopted by duly elected, voting members who are a small cross section of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

WHEREAS, in the past, independent groups have sought to influence voting members at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to vote in ways favorable to their causes; and

WHEREAS, individuals and congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may have differing convictions on social statements, resolutions, and policies that are adopted by the voting members of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly; and

WHEREAS, congregations of the Eastern North Dakota Synod, along with congregations in many synods of the ELCA, have a strong desire to participate in the shaping of this church by having the opportunity to either ratify or reject major decisions, (similar to the system used by the Presbyterian Church, USA); and

WHEREAS, amending the current ELCA Constitution to adopt such a comprehensive change would be cumbersome, if not impossible, and unavailable for consideration until the 2013 Churchwide Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA is currently engaged in a comprehensive study exploring and reevaluating our life together in mission as a church body (Living Into The Future Together, "LIFT" task force, www.LIFTELCA.org); and

WHEREAS, the ELCA LIFT task force will be making recommendations regarding the way in which major decisions are made in this church to the Conference of Bishops, the ELCA Church Council, and the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly for possible action; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the ELCA LIFT task force be urged to consider recommending the implementation of a congregational ratification process whereby all statements, resolutions, and policy changes passed by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly that define matters of doctrine and the teachings of this church must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the member congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council's Executive Committee for referral to the Living Into the Future Together (LIFT) Task Force in accordance with the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church.

Submitted by Melvin A. Stark, member of United Lutheran Church, Cavalier, ND; and
Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council, Hillsboro, ND

SA.10.04.10 Motion by Melvin Stark, second by Bob Caranicas to adopt Resolution #4.
Motion Failed.

RESOLUTION #5 – Establishing a Theme for the 2011 EaND Synod Assembly

WHEREAS, the Eastern North Dakota (EaND) Synod of the ELCA has gathered together at this 2010 assembly under the theme, “God’s Work. Our Hands. Together in Mission”; and

WHEREAS, Matthew, Chapter 25, verses 35, 40 read: brothers and sisters, ³⁵ “for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...” ⁴⁰ “And 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 ELCA’s constitution states the church shall serve in response to God’s love to meet the human needs of those in our world who are hungry and thirsty and in need of dignity and justice; and

WHEREAS, the number of hungry people in the world, during the past two years, has grown from 840 million to slightly over one billion; and

WHEREAS, the current yearly giving for our Eastern North Dakota (EaND) Synod, as of year-end 2009 is \$2.21/baptized member; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that each congregation in the Eastern North Dakota Synod, the heart of the Bread Basket of the World, challenge their membership to raise their annual Giving to the world hunger program of the ELCA, meeting or exceeding the current giving level of \$2.21/baptized member; and be it further

RESOLVED, this 2010 Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly expand the mission emphasis of this assembly by challenging us to come together at our 2011 Synod Assembly under the theme, “God’s Work. Our Hands. Meeting the Needs of a Hungry World.”

Submitted by Rev. Elwood N. Rieke in behalf of the Eastern North Dakota Synod Hunger and Justice Committee

SA.10.04.11 Motion by Carl Cooper, second by Megan Hogstad to adopt Resolution #5.
Motion Carried.