

Resolution #2

Submitted by: American Lutheran Church Council, Long Prairie, Minnesota

A Resolution Rejecting Proposed Social Statement and Affirming Current Teaching Documents on Sexuality

- 1 WHEREAS, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will consider the adoption of *Human Sexuality: Gift and*
2 *Trust* as a possible social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and
- 3 WHEREAS, “Social statements and other resources on social concerns build on the rich legacy of the church
4 bodies that united to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As a confessional church
5 with an historical sense, this church continues to look to the social statements of The American
6 Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America for guidance, while it develops its own social
7 statements and further deliberates on social concerns” (*Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical*
8 *Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns*); and
- 9 WHEREAS, the Lutheran Confessions state: “We believe, teach, and confess that the only rule and guiding
10 principle according to which all teachings and teachers are to be evaluated and judged are the
11 prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments alone” (*Book of Concord, Formula*
12 *of Concord, Epitome, Rule & Norm*); and
- 13 WHEREAS, the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states: “This church accepts
14 the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the
15 authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life” (*ELCA Constitution, 2.03*); and
- 16 WHEREAS, in addition to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, the current teaching of the ELCA on human
17 sexuality is guided by the ELCA Messages *Sexuality: Some Common Convictions* (1996) and
18 *Commercial Sexual Exploitation* (2001); and by the social statements of the ELCA’s predecessor
19 churches: *Sex, Marriage, and Family - A Social Statement of the Lutheran Church in America*
20 (1970); *Human Sexuality and Sexual Behavior - A Social Statement of The American Lutheran*
21 *Church* (1980); and *Teachings and Practice on Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage - A Social*
22 *Statement of The American Lutheran Church* (1982); and

23 WHEREAS, the adoption of *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* as a Social Statement of the ELCA would replace
24 the ELCA Message *Sexuality: Some Common Convictions* and the predecessor church statements
25 with a document that is less helpful than its predecessor documents and distances the ELCA from
26 Scripture and from the rich legacy of the church bodies that united to form the ELCA; therefore be it
27 RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, in Assembly, thank the members of Task Force for ELCA
28 Studies on Sexuality for their work; and be it further
29 RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide
30 Assembly to reject *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* as a proposed Social Statement for the
31 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and be it further
32 RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide
33 Assembly to affirm the teaching of the ELCA Messages *Sexuality: Some Common Convictions*
34 (1996) and *Commercial Sexual Exploitation* (2001); and be it further
35 RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide
36 Assembly to express the ELCA's intention to continue to rely on the social statements of its
37 predecessor churches — *Sex, Marriage, and Family - A Social Statement of the Lutheran Church in*
38 *America* (1970); *Human Sexuality and Sexual Behavior - A Social Statement of The American*
39 *Lutheran Church* (1980); and *Teachings and Practice on Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage - A*
40 *Social Statement of The American Lutheran Church* (1982) — as historical documents expressing
41 faithful Christian teaching on human sexuality.

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43 RECCOMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL: **To consider.**

44 RECOMMENDATION OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL: _____