

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

The following congregations submitted resolutions which are not being brought forward to the Northwestern Synod Assembly for the reasons stated by the Reference and Conference Committee. They are included here as information.

Submitted by Bethany Lutheran Church Shelly, MN

WHEREAS, THE Bethany Lutheran Church is a member of the ELCA and WHEREAS, the Bethany Lutheran Church is in good standing with the ELCA;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethany Lutheran Church opposes the ordination of practicing homosexuals.

Reference and Council: This resolution does not explicitly ask the Assembly to do any specific action; people from this congregation who are supportive of this statement may wish to speak in support of resolutions brought before the assembly which express a similar position but which request specific action from the assembly.

Submitted by Shelly Marsh River Church Council

Whereas, the Shelly Marsh River Lutheran Church is a member of the ELCA and whereas the Shelly Marsh River Lutheran Church is in good standing with the ELCA, now, therefore be it resolved that the Shelly Marsh River Lutheran Church opposes the ordination of practicing homosexuals.

Reference and Council: This resolution does not explicitly ask the Assembly to do any specific action; people from this congregation who are supportive of this statement may wish to speak in support of resolutions brought before the assembly which express a similar position but which request specific action from the assembly.

Submitted by Maple Lake Lutheran Church Council, Fertile, MN

Resolved that the NWMN Synod in assembly would vote to maintain the current ELCA Statement on Human Sexuality and current standards for ordination.

Reference and Council: The intent of this resolve is expressed in other resolution (resolutions #1 and #2) which are being brought before the assembly.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION TO RESOLUTION #2

The following Resolution has similar intent to resolution #2 which is being brought before the Assembly
Submitted by: Mary Boyack on behalf of some concerned members of United Lutheran Church, Elbow Lake, MN

A Resolution in Support of Rejecting Recommendations on Ministry Policy and Affirming Current ELCA Policy

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) has been proposing the ordination of Lutherans in committed same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church; and

WHEREAS, scripture in Romans 1:24-27, 32 states, *“Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator – who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.”*; and

WHEREAS, scripture in John 1:1 states, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.”*; and

WHEREAS, scripture in Hebrews 13:8 states, *“Jesus Christ [the Word] is the same yesterday and today and forever.”*; and

WHEREAS, teaching theologians represent a minority of ELCA Lutherans and their statement affirming the authority of the Scriptures EXCEPT the seven biblical texts that are frequently cited on the issue of homosexuality, and that those seven texts are not normative in the 21st century Christian community is diametrically opposed to scriptures in II Timothy 3:16 which state, *“All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*; and

WHEREAS, this minority’s proposal to move forward in accepting gay and lesbian people into the rostered ministry of the Church with the expectancy of publicly accountable, lifelong and monogamous relationships, WILL cause a division in the Church; and

WHEREAS, the fourth Commandment, *“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.”*, is the foundation of a strong family structure and a same-gender committed partner as a rostered minister is an improper example; and

WHEREAS, the laity, guided by the Holy Spirit, does not support policies, processes, and procedures that trust designated individuals and bodies to use churchwide standards to make decisions about fitness for rostered ministry in general and for call to a specific ELCA ministry; and

WHEREAS, churchwide funding struggles and laity benevolence suffers because of lack of enthusiasm for ELCA policies; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the ELCA NOT commit itself to finding a way for people in such publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION TO RESOLUTION #2

The following Resolution has similar intent to resolution #2 which is being brought before the Assembly

Submitted by: American Lutheran Church, Long Prairie, Minnesota

A Resolution Rejecting Recommendations on Ministry Policy and Affirming Current ELCA Policy

- WHEREAS,** the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted “to direct the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality specifically to address and to make recommendations to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on changes to any church policies that preclude practicing homosexual persons from the rosters of this church;” and
- WHEREAS,** the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will consider recommendations from the *Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policies* from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality; and
- WHEREAS,** the *Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policies* asks the ELCA to change its teaching and policy to affirm the possibility of same-sex sexual relationships for pastors and other rostered leaders in the ELCA; and
- WHEREAS,** the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states: “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,** many ELCA members and most Christian churches – including most churches in the Lutheran World Federation – believe that Scripture is clear in its teaching about marriage and homosexual behavior; and
- WHEREAS,** a synodical or congregational option on ministry standards would represent a real change in the teaching of our church forcing even those synods and congregations that do not agree with this change implicitly to accept the notion that Scripture is not clear in its teaching about marriage or about homosexual behavior; and
- WHEREAS,** the interdependent relationship between the churchwide, synod, and congregational expressions of the ELCA requires one Office of Ministry, one roster of pastors, and one set of expectations for pastors and other rostered leaders throughout the ELCA; and
- WHEREAS,** the ELCA currently expresses its expectations of pastors and other rostered leaders through documents called *Vision and Expectations* and *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* which have served the ELCA well for most of its history; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, in Assembly, thank the members of Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality for their work; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to reject the proposals in the *Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policies* from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to reaffirm the ELCA’s current standards for pastors and other rostered leaders as expressed in *Vision and Expectations* and *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*.