

## RESOLUTION 11.06

### REGARDING THE RECOMMENDED PROPOSED SOCIAL STATEMENT

**WHEREAS**, The recommended proposed Social Statement on Genetics – *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* – called for by the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, written by the ELCA Task Force on Genetics, reviewed by the ELCA Council of Bishops, recommended by the ELCA Church Council and will be considered at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, If adopted at the Churchwide Assembly, policies and practices will be developed from it; and

**WHEREAS**, The recommended proposed Social Statement on Genetics recognizes Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and other genetic technologies and products used in farming, medicine and other fields as good gifts from God; and

**WHEREAS**, All human endeavors are tainted by sin; and

**WHEREAS**, Some ELCA members feel a perception of bias toward certain environmental views in the web postings, written material and advocacy activities of ELCA staff and volunteers acting on behalf of the membership of the ELCA; and

**WHEREAS**, Advocates of such views and practices are also subject to the effects of sin; therefore be it

#### **RESOLVED:**

- 1. That** the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA memorialize the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to direct the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit and Church Council not to form broad policies and/or advocacy practices based on the broad reach of science and technologies covered under the recommended proposed social statement – *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* – if passed, but limit such activity to more specific branches of this field of study; and
- 2. That** the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA request the ELCA Church Council and ELCA staff to make an intentional and vigorous effort to be sure our advocates working in the area of public policy and legislation, in particular, are not biased in their approach, but represent the true balance of opinion among the members of the ELCA, and that they be held accountable to the standards and practices set forth in the Social Statement; and
- 3. That** the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA request that the ELCA Church Council and the ELCA staff make efforts to include representative individuals and organizations from a balanced set of ideologies in any policy or advocacy activity to more accurately represent the balance of opinion among members of the ELCA and the scientific community.

*Submitted by the Minnesota Valley Conference, Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA*

The Resolutions Committee recommends that this resolution be defeated because social statements are teaching documents and the provisions of this resolution are unworkable.