

## **Resolution 10.01**

### **Regarding Rescinding Actions of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly on Ministry Policies**

WHEREAS, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted resolutions (CA09.05.23, CA09.05.24, CA09.05.26, CA09.05.27) to implement the social statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, that: 1. would permit congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support, and hold publicly accountable lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships, 2. would eliminate the prohibition of rostered service by members who are in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships, and 3. directed appropriate churchwide units to approve appropriate amendments to ELCA documents and policies to implement those resolutions; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA, because of its commitment to respect the bound consciences of all, recognizes disagreement on these resolutions; and

WHEREAS, many consciences, including (number) of (number) voting on this resolution, view the 2009 Churchwide Assembly actions on ministry policies as contrary to the teaching of scripture and common Christian teachings of the last 2000 years; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Southwestern Minnesota Synod at its 2010 Assembly hereby memorializes the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to rescind its 2009 resolutions (CA09.05.23, CA09.05.24, CA09.05.26, CA09.05.27) that authorized changes to ministry policies and return to the candidacy and ordination policies in effect on August 1, 2009.

*Submitted by Zion Lutheran Church in Litchfield, adopted by the Crow River Conference*

## **Background information for Resolution 10.01**

The four resolutions passed at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to implement the social statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, are:

### **First Resolution Adopted (CA09.05.23):**

RESOLVED, that in the implementation of any resolutions on ministry policies, the ELCA commit itself to bear one another's burdens, love the neighbor, and respect the bound consciences of all.

### **Second Resolution Adopted (CA09.05.24):**

RESOLVED, that the ELCA commit itself to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support, and hold publicly accountable lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships.

### **Third Resolution Adopted (CA09.05.26):**

RESOLVED, that the ELCA 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.

### **Fourth Resolution Adopted (CA09.05.27):**

RESOLVED, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America call upon its members to commit themselves to respect the bound consciences of those with whom they disagree regarding decisions on the call and rostering of individuals in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships, in this church and with churches ecumenically and globally; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this church, because of its commitment to respect the bound consciences of all, declare its intent to allow structured flexibility in decision-making regarding the approving or disapproving in candidacy and the extending or not extending of a call to rostered service of a person who is otherwise qualified and who is living or contemplates living in a publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationship; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America make provision in its policies to eliminate the prohibition of rostered service by members who are in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America make provision in its policies to recognize the conviction of members who believe that this church should not call or roster people in a publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationship; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the appropriate churchwide unit(s) be directed to develop, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, and the Church Council be directed to approve, appropriate guidelines for a process by which congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization could hold people publicly accountable in their relationships who are in or contemplate being in lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships and who seek to be on the rosters of this church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Committee on Appeals be directed to develop, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, and the Church Council be directed to approve, appropriate amendments to "Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline" and the Vocation and Education program unit be directed to draft, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, and the Church Council is directed to approve, appropriate amendments to the "Vision and Expectations" documents and the Candidacy Manual to accomplish the intent of this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that additional policies be developed, as necessary, so that those whom this church holds responsible for making decisions about fitness for rostered ministry in general and for call to a particular specific ELCA ministry may discern, and have guidance in discerning, the fitness for ministry of a member living in a publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationship; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this church continue to trust its established processes and those to whom it has given the responsibility to discern who should and should not be rostered or called to public ministry in this church.