

A Resolution from Zion Lutheran Church in Litchfield

Whereas the ELCA 2009 Assembly adopted resolutions which implemented the Social Statement on Sexuality which included allowing congregations to support same sex people in a publicly accountable, monogamous, committed relationship, and allowed for such people to be placed on the roster of the ELCA, and approved changes in policies appropriate to those resolutions to be made in “Visions and Expectations” and the candidacy and ordination policies of the ELCA and,

Whereas the ELCA likewise recognizes that bound consciences can disagree on these decisions, and

Whereas many consciences, including ours, view the Assembly’s actions 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 memorialize the 2011 ELCA assembly to rescind its 2009 Assembly resolutions that “the ELCA commit itself to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support, and hold publicly accountable life-long, monogamous, same gender relationships” and 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”, and that the ELCA rescind the attendant 2009 resolution that implemented policy changes to ELCA policies and procedures to implement these changes, and

Be it further resolved that the ELCA return to the candidacy and ordination policies and the form of “Visions and Expectations” in effect on August 1, 2009.

Background Information:

Following the August 2009 actions of the ELCA assembly Zion Lutheran Church Litchfield, held a public forum on the assembly’s actions, followed that with round table discussions with 120 people participating in the discussions, and had additional congregational forums in January 2010. At its January 31 annual meeting the congregation voted 119 in opposition to the assembly’s actions, 61 in favor of the actions and 22 choosing not to vote. A subsequent resolution was passed for Zion’s voting members at the Crow River Conference assembly to present a memorial to the ELCA to rescind its actions. The above resolution is in keeping with that congregational decision.

As received from the Crow River Conference