

Resolution Addressing Actions of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

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 amendments to ELCA documents and policies to implement those resolutions; and

Whereas, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, because of its commitment to respect the bound consciences of all, recognizes disagreement on these resolutions;

Therefore, be it resolved, that First Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

First Lutheran Church, as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, understands that it has the right to call, or refuse to call, as a pastor or rostered lay leader any person who is on the roster of ordained ministers, lay roster or any candidate approved for these rosters; and

First Lutheran Church, in accordance with the 2009 Churchwide Assembly which 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,” declare that this congregation will honor biblical teachings and not call a pastor or lay rostered leader who is or intends to be in such a same-gender relationship; and

First Lutheran Church finds no basis in scripture for the celebrations, civil unions or blessings of persons in same-gender relationships, and therefore they will not be performed in this church building or authorized by this congregation; and

First Lutheran Church declares same-gender relationships are contrary to the teaching of the scripture and common Christian teachings, and therefore all Christian Education Programs at First Lutheran Church will support that position; and be it further resolved that

First Lutheran Church Council will direct the ad hoc education task force to study the issue of First Lutheran Church’s current affiliation and potential affiliations and report its findings back to the Church Council at its June 2010 meeting.

Adopted: April 13, 2010