

Ordination of Gay and Lesbian Persons in Committed Relationships

1 **Whereas**, as the Report and Recommendations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's
2 (ELCA's) Task Force for Studies on Sexuality (Task Force) has stated "that the disagreement
3 over these issues before the church is deep, pervasive, multi-faceted, and multi-layered. This
4 church is not of one mind"; and
5

6 **Whereas**, the Task Force's Recommendation Three does not insure a uniform response across
7 the church; and
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9 **Whereas**, the Task Force's Recommendation Three does not provide a uniform way for those
10 gay and lesbian persons across this church who are in covenanted relationships and who are also
11 called to ministry to live faithfully in the midst of these disagreements; and
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13 **Whereas**, the original resolution, ELCA Churchwide Assembly Action CA01.06.36, in 2001
14 directed this church:

15 To respond to the memorials of the Saint Paul Area and Metropolitan Chicago Synods by
16 requesting that the ELCA Church Council, the Conference of Bishops, and the Division
17 for Ministry create a specific plan and timeline leading to a decision concerning the
18 rostering of homosexual persons who give expression to sexual intimacy only in a
19 relationship that is mutual, chaste, and faithful, including but not limited to:

- 20 1) changes in "Vision and Expectations"
- 21 2) changes in "Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline";
- 22 3) amendments to the ELCA constitution and bylaws; and
- 23 4) changes in all other related governing documents.

24 Similarly that Assembly directed, "In the event any of the above mentioned changes require
25 approval of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, such actions shall be placed before the 2005
26 Churchwide Assembly for adoption or ratification"; and
27

28 **Whereas**, no congregation of the ELCA is ever compelled to consider or call any candidate for a
29 rostered position; therefore be it
30

31 **Resolved**, that the Minneapolis Area Synod in Assembly memorialize the 2005 Evangelical
32 Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Churchwide Assembly to adopt the following:

33 *It shall be the policy of the ELCA that there be no policy barrier to rostered service for*
34 *otherwise qualified persons in same-gender covenanted relationships that are "mutual,*
35 *chaste and faithful," (Vision & Expectations, p. 13); and upon adoption of such policy, the*
36 *ELCA Church Council, working with the ELCA Division for Ministry and the Conference of*
37 *Bishops, implement such policy by revising all relevant ELCA policy documents accordingly*
38 *and by taking any further action as is necessary.*

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Minneapolis, on February 8, 2005.
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The Reference and Counsel Committee (RCC) forwards this resolution without recommendation.

▶ **SA04.16.05.0** Voted to adopt Resolution RC2005-5.
Yes: 269
No: 300
Abstentions: 17