RC2009-6

Memorial Supporting Adoption of the Social Statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, with Recommendations on Resources and Rostering

WHEREAS, the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality has earnestly studied and struggled with these matters for eight years, and their work models and invites mutually respectful dialogue about sexuality throughout this church; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Social Statement powerfully proclaims this church's teachings on trust, love, and service to the neighbor as the proper foundation of sexuality, while honestly recognizing that there is no consensus regarding same-gender relationships or the rostered ministry of people in them; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Church Council, at its March 2009 meeting, voted to recommend to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality, its implementing resolutions, and a Recommendation on Ministry Policies; and

WHEREAS, the Recommendation on Ministry Policies allows a way to maintain a uniform standard and process for candidacy and call throughout this church while respecting the bound consciences of all; and

WHEREAS, the time has come for both those in this church who support publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous same-gender relationships and those who oppose them to join together in creating a means to continue living together faithfully in the midst of disagreement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly as follows:

1. To adopt the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality and its implementing resolutions, as recommended by the ELCA Church Council.
2. To adopt the four parts of the proposed Recommendation on Ministry Policies, as recommended by the ELCA Church Council.
3. To adopt the following additional implementing resolution of the Social Statement on Human Sexuality:

   "To direct appropriate churchwide units to develop, in consultation with those most affected, resources for congregations or faith communities and ministers that choose to do so to support same gender relationships by holding them publicly accountable in the exchange of promises of lifelong love and fidelity."
4. To adopt the following additional implementing resolution of the Social Statement on Human Sexuality:

   "Resolved, that the Church Council, in consultation with the Vocation and Education unit, be directed to develop procedures for the reception from another Lutheran church body and for the expedited reinstatement to the roster or to candidacy of those whose rostering was precluded by previous policies on same gender relationships."

Author: Rev. Brad Froslee, Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church of Minneapolis

Adopted by: Central Conference in Assembly on March 15, 2009
South Conference in Assembly on March 12, 2009

Contact persons: Rev. Mary Albing, O: 612-926-5414
Rev. Jay Carlson, O: 612-729-8358
Rev. Brad Froslee, O: 612-827-2504
Ms. Jen Nagel, O: 612-872-4650