

Memorial Supporting Advocacy for Legal Protection and Fairness

WHEREAS, the Lutheran church has a tradition of opposing discrimination codified in law, even during times of social dislocation; and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran church has written social statements to guide efforts to advocate for the protection of legal rights, and has developed an advocacy arm to carry out the pragmatic efforts at legislative change; and

WHEREAS, the Social Statement on Human Sexuality notes that “laws have a direct impact on patterns of social trust within households and networks of kinship” and that “victims of sexual violation must be able to rely on public institutions for intervention”; and

WHEREAS, the Social Statement on Human Sexuality notes that “certain laws and economic realities...may create extreme economic hardship for some, including older adults, who desire to be legally married” and asks that the ELCA advocate for “altering laws and the factors that create a significant impediment for such people to be married”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to call on bishops, ministries, and members of this church to advocate for laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and for laws that define violence on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity as a hate crime; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to direct appropriate churchwide units and to encourage synods, congregations, and members of this church to advocate for laws and regulations that permit widows and widowers to marry without losing retirement benefits.

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