

## **Resolution Regarding "Trustworthy Servants" Process, inspired by a similar motion of the Synod Council of the Metro New York Synod**

**WHEREAS** the Churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America discerned a pastoral need to address both the deficiencies of [Vision and Expectations](#) and the ways in which this document has been applied in the life of this Church; and

**WHEREAS** the Churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America engaged in processes to draft, review and issue a replacement document for *Vision and Expectations* titled [Trustworthy Servants](#) and made this document public on March 7, 2019, invited a comment period concluding March 17, 2019, and seeks action at the meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on April 4, 2019; and

**WHEREAS** the Churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America embarked on drafting *Trustworthy Servants* understanding this initiative to be for the building up of the church; and

**WHEREAS** the Churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America undertook this entire process—draft, review and issue—without the substantial involvement of pastors, deacons and candidates for rostered ministry, particularly persons whose faith and vocation have been negatively affected by *Vision and Expectations*; and

**WHEREAS** the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is an interdependent church where “Each expression of this church—churchwide, synod, and congregation—is held together in a relationship of interdependence that encourages each to respond to its context” (Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, Introduction to Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, August 18, 2016 4-2018, pg. 9)

**Therefore, be it**

**RESOLVED** that the Synod Council of the Sierra Pacific Synod requests the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To take no action at its meeting of April 2019 either to affirm [Vision and Expectations](#) or to adopt [Trustworthy Servants](#); and

To create a task force comprising members of the ELCA Church Council and Conference of Bishops and Churchwide Staff, as well as pastors, deacons, and lay members of this Church. A majority of this task force shall be persons who self-identify as LGBTQIA+, persons of color, and/or persons whose first language is other than English; and

To charge this taskforce to receive as information the latest draft of *Trustworthy Servants* and all related information and commentary conveyed to the Conference of Bishops and the Churchwide organization as well as to any other interested parties (e.g., Reconciling Works, Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries); and

To discern and propose an inclusive process reflecting the interdependence of this Church to discern faithful ways forward. This taskforce will create a draft of *Trustworthy Servants* to be reported across this church in a timely manner for review and comment before its final adoption by the ELCA Church Council.