

Sierra Pacific Synod: Resolution 2019-3
Resources For Implementing "Faith, Sexism, and Justice"

1. WHEREAS at its 2019 Churchwide Assembly, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in
2. America (ELCA) will consider the proposed Social Statement: "Faith, Sexism, and
3. Justice: a Lutheran Call to Action"; and
- 4.
5. WHEREAS as Lutherans we believe in the paramount importance of scripture as the
6. inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith,
7. and life; and
- 8.
9. WHEREAS translations and interpretations of Scripture have been used to portray
10. women as sinners/prostitutes as with Eve, Rahab, and Mary Magdalene, or written out of
11. scripture as in the case of Junia; and
- 12.
13. WHEREAS the proposed social statement asserts that language for and images of God in
14. the Christian faith are often androcentric, and that the use of only male language leads us
15. to forget the incomprehensible mystery of God, and therefore the statement commends all
16. Christians to retrieve and reform theological language, images, and themes so that they
17. support faithful proclamations of God's grace in Jesus Christ to all persons; and
- 18.
19. WHEREAS the proposed social statement acknowledges that everyone knowingly or
20. unknowingly participates in the patriarchal system and that we are socialized to conform
21. to these patterns of power, privilege, and prejudice making us complicit in maintaining
22. social systems of oppression; and
- 23.
24. WHEREAS the proposed social statement calls us to "new commitments and actions as a
25. church" (A. IV, l. 1236ff); and
- 26.
27. WHEREAS in the past the ELCA has responded to the need for increasingly inclusive
28. and diverse worship materials (for example, by initiating the creation of the Evangelical
29. Lutheran Worship hymnal and commending it for use in the ELCA); therefore, be it
- 30.
31. RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly memorializes the 2019 Churchwide
32. Assembly of the ELCA to create and initiate through various means the creation of
33. commended resource materials for clergy, rostered leaders, lay leaders, and congregations
34. to implement the goals of the proposed social statement. And, be it further
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.

41. RESOLVED that the creation of materials intended to implement the goals of the
42. proposed social statement will:
- 43.
44. Include more stories of women in scripture (e.g. Deborah, Ruth, Naomi, Mary
45. Magdalene, Junia) and in our Christian tradition (e.g. the Desert Mothers) when de-
veloping future documents and resources relating to women gender and justice; and
- 46.
47. Include the most current translations of and biblical scholarship regarding stories of
48. women in the Bible in any further documents and resources on gender and justice;
49. and
- 50.
51. Endorse an inclusive language Bible; and
- 52.
53. Provide non-gender biased/inclusive materials for worship including hymnody, adult
54. education, Confirmation, and Sunday school; and
- 55.
56. Use expansive language for God in ELCA worship resources (*Sundays & Seasons*,
57. etc.); and
- 58.
59. Develop pastoral care resources for the care and healing of traumatized victims and
60. survivors of sexism and patriarchy, and for the public acknowledgement of, and social
61. dialogue about, the sins of sexism and patriarchy. These resources might include
62. counseling information, healing services, etc. for victims/survivors of sexism and
63. patriarchy; and
- 64.
65. Develop alternative scripture and worship, liturgy, and resource materials that address
66. internalized misogyny (when women have been so conditioned to conform to
67. the social system that includes patterns of male power, privilege, and prejudice that
68. they work against their own interests often unknowingly); and
- 69.
70. Adopt intersectionality as a lens through which we see how institutionalized sexism,
71. racism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, classism, etc., are interconnected.
- 72.
73. *Sponsored by New Creation Lutheran Church, San Jose*
74. *Co-Sponsored by 15 Voting Members of the 2019 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly*
75. *Vetted by the Resolutions Committee on May 1, 2019*