

5 Resolutions

- 5.1 09-01 Book of Faith Resolution
- 5.2 09-02 Synod Assembly Memorial Regarding Changes to Roster Policy
- 5.3 09-02 **Substitute** Synod Assembly Memorial Regarding Changes to Roster Policy
- 5.4 09-03 Resolution to Change Board of Pensions Policy
- 5.5 09-04 Resolution to Support Seminary Students

BOOK OF FAITH RESOLUTION

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Whereas all parents and baptismal sponsors covenant to place the Holy Scriptures into the hands of others and nurture them in faith and prayer, and

Whereas all those who affirm their baptism promise to hear the word of God and to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed;

Whereas all rostered leaders vow to be diligent in their study of the Holy Scriptures;

Whereas the ELCA has begun a Book of Faith Initiative inviting everyone to open scripture and join the conversation, and to become part of the initiative (www.bookoffaith.org); therefore be it

Resolved that the Sierra Pacific Synod become a Book of Faith Synod, making a commitment to live in and from the word of God in all our meetings, assemblies, and events, so that we regularly and increasingly engage God’s word. Be it further

Resolved that every congregation of this synod be encouraged to:
Join the Book of Faith Initiative;
Celebrate the many ways that scripture is already a part of our ministry and daily life;
Encourage all disciples to increase their Biblical literacy;
Explore new opportunities for engaging the Bible;
Participate in Synod Training Events for the Book of Faith Initiative;
Include scripture as an integral part of all meetings and events;
That we might live into our calling as people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

Resolution submitted by Word and Sacrament Discipling Team

CHANGES TO ROSTER POLICY

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Whereas, the ELCA has repeatedly welcomed gay and lesbian people into its life (including resolutions of the 1991, 1995, 1999, 2005, and 2007 Churchwide Assemblies), and congregations throughout the ELCA are faithfully and effectively served by qualified ministers who are in a committed same-gender relationship; and

Whereas, a congregation that wishes to call as its minister an otherwise-qualified person in a committed same-gender partnership should be permitted to do so, while at the same time a congregation that does not wish to call such a minister cannot and should not be forced to do so; and

Whereas, 22 synods, including the Sierra Pacific Synod, have directed the ELCA to eliminate discrimination against ministers in a same-gender partnership and the congregations who call them. Other synods include Grand Canyon, Greater Milwaukee, Metro New York, Metro Washington DC, Metropolitan Chicago, Minneapolis Area, New England, New Jersey, Northeastern Minnesota, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Northern Illinois, Northwest Washington, Oregon, Rocky Mountain, Saint Paul Area, South/Central Wisconsin, Southeastern Iowa, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southwest California, Southwestern Washington, Upstate New York; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Sierra Pacific Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to direct the Church Council and other relevant entities of the churchwide organization to take all steps necessary to amend policies on ministry in this church by substituting, in lieu of statements concerning "homosexual" persons, the expectation that ordained and rostered lay ministers in a same-gender partnership uphold, in their relationship, the same standard of mutual fidelity, love, honesty, trust, and accountability that this church expects of marriage relationships.

Resolved, that the Sierra Pacific Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to direct the Church Council and other relevant entities of the churchwide organization to develop an expedited process for reinstating to the roster or to candidacy those who were removed or resigned from the roster (or were denied or withdrew from candidacy) solely on account of this church's preclusion of ministers in a same-gender partnership, and to develop an expedited process for the reception of rostered individuals from other Christian bodies whose reception was previously precluded.

Submitted by St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco

SYNOD ASSEMBLY MEMORIAL REGARDING CHANGES TO ROSTER POLICY

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Whereas, the Task Force for ELCA Studies in 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 by an overwhelming margin 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

Resolved, that the Sierra Pacific Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly as follows:

To adopt the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality and its implementing resolutions, as recommended by the ELCA Church Council.

To adopt the four parts of the proposed Recommendation on Ministry Policies, as recommended by the ELCA Church Council.

To adopt the following additional implementing resolutions 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.”

To adopt the following: “Resolved, that the Vocation and Education unit be directed to develop, and the Church Council be directed to approve, 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.”

RESOLUTION TO CHANGE BOARD OF PENSION POLICY

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Whereas the states of Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts and Vermont have legalized marriage between persons of the same sex, and other states offer civil unions and domestic partnerships and;

Whereas among those who have contracted same-sex marriages, or have entered into civil unions or domestic partnerships are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America including some who are employed by ELCA congregations, synods, and churchwide agencies and;

Whereas the Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America does not and cannot currently recognize these marriages, civil unions or domestic partnerships and thereby extend the benefits of the Board of Pensions to these spouses and partners because the ELCA defines marriage as being between "one man and one woman" and;

Whereas we believe that the giving of such benefits to the spouses or partners of same-sex couples where one spouse or partner is employed by an ELCA organization is a matter of social justice therefore be it;

Resolved that we call for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to amend its policy to permit the spouses or partners of who are covered by the ELCA Board of Pensions and who are in same-sex marriages, civil unions or domestic partnerships to receive all the benefits and rights from the Board of Pensions currently made available to the spouses of those who are covered by the ELCA Board of Pensions and who are in heterosexual marriages.

Submitted by East Bay Conference

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT SEMINARY STUDENTS

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Whereas all congregations of the ELCA are in need of learned and passionate individuals to preach the Word of God, teach, and administer the Sacraments.

Whereas ordained clergy interpret the Gospel of Jesus Christ as they preach from the pulpit and connect our lives of faith with the lives we live each day in the world at work, home and school.

Whereas most students entering the seminary have already incurred student loans from undergraduate studies which are held in deferment until their completion of their seminary studies. Therefore be it;

Resolved that each congregation be encouraged, in their budget, to create a line item to support the tuition of seminary students by budgeting a minimum of \$100.00 a year to be sent to the synod office to be offered in support of seminarians attending ELCA seminaries who are members of congregations within the Sierra Pacific Synod and be it further

Resolved that Thrivent be encouraged to match these monies through chapter funds throughout our synod and be it further

Resolved that this individual congregational line item be created during the year 2010 and maintained into the future.

Submitted by Sierra San Joaquin Conference