

**A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE ACTIONS OF THE 2009 CHURCHWIDE
ASSEMBLY FROM BETHANY LUTHERAN, SPENCER, IOWA**

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA has adopted the social statement, “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust”, and

WHEREAS, in Part IV (lines 620 – 628 in the Pre-Assembly Report) this statement reads:

The historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions have recognized marriage as a covenant between a man and a woman, reflecting Mark 10: 6–9: “But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one put asunder.” (Jesus here recalls Genesis 1:27; 2:23–24.), and

WHEREAS, in Part IV (lines 740 – 744, as amended, of the Pre-Assembly Report) it reads:

Recognizing that this conclusion differs from the historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions, some people, though not all, in this church and within the larger Christian community, conclude that marriage is also the appropriate term to use in describing similar benefits, protection, and support for same-gender couples entering into lifelong monogamous relationships, and

WHEREAS, the statement then goes on to treat these two positions and the variants within them as of equal validity, on the basis of the “conscience-bound beliefs” of those who hold them (Part IV, lines 809 – 868 of the Pre-Assembly Report), and

WHEREAS, on this same basis of the “conscience-bound lack of consensus in this church” (lines 452 – 453 of the Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies in Part V of the Pre-Assembly Report) the resolutions on ministry policies (SA09.05.23 – 24 – 26 & 27) were adopted, and

WHEREAS, neither the Social Statement nor the Recommendation on Ministry Policies present an argument based on Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions and with the aid of sound reason either to reject what is admitted to be the position of the historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions based on Scripture or to accept a position which is admitted to be contrary to the historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions, and

WHEREAS, the Confession of Faith of the ELCA (Chapter 2 of the ELCA Constitution) commits the ELCA to accept the canonical Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm of our proclamation, faith and life, and to accept the confessional writings of the Lutheran Church as a true witness of the Gospel and valid interpretations of the faith of the Church, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Bethany Lutheran Church Council requests that Western Iowa Synod Council recognize the decisions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly in adopting the 4 Resolutions on Ministry Policies (CA09.05.23 – 24 – 26 & 27) as contrary to the Confession of Faith, Chapter 2 of the ELCA Constitution, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Bethany Lutheran Church Council requests the Western Iowa Synod Council to memorialize the ELCA Church Council to recognize these actions as contrary to the Confession of Faith, Chapter 2 of the ELCA Constitution, and to postpone the approval of the 4 Resolutions on Ministry Policies (CA09.05.23 – 24 – 26 & 27), and to request that the ELCA Church Council direct the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to reconsider the adoption of these Ministry Policies.

This resolution titled “**A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE ACTIONS OF THE 2009 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY FROM BETHANY LUTHERAN, SPENCER, IOWA**” was adopted at the Church Council meeting of Bethany Lutheran Church, 15 West 14th St., Spencer, IA 51301 at its monthly meeting on December 15, 2009.

Kirby Schmidt, President

Mary Ann Quail, Secretary