

# RESOLUTIONS

## R-1

### **AFFIRM ACTIONS OF THE TASK FORCE FOR ELCA STUDIES ON SEXUALITY** **With regard to the Recommendations on Ministry Policies**

**WHEREAS**, the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly urged every part of the ELCA to “concentrate on finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of disagreements, recognizing the God-given mission and communion that we share as members of the body of Christ;” and

**WHEREAS**, the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly encouraged the ELCA's synods, bishops and presiding bishop to “‘refrain from or demonstrate restraint in disciplining’ people and congregations who call qualified leaders on the professional rosters of the ELCA ‘who are in a mutual, chaste and faithful, committed, same-gender relationship;’” and

**WHEREAS**, the Northern Illinois Synod resolved at its 2007 assembly that “the Vocation and Education Unit [of the ELCA], in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, develop an amendment to the document known as *Visions and Expectations* that removes provisions requiring persons who are ‘homosexual in their self-understanding’ to ‘abstain from homosexual relationships.’”(NIS-Resolution R-6 – 2007 Assembly); and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality has completed its work, providing the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, with *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality has provided *Recommendation on Ministry Policy* as mandated by the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to offer thanks and appreciation for the faithful work of the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to enact the Four Resolutions outlined in *Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies* [released February 19, 2009]; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly call on all in the ELCA to pray for a Christ-centered, Spirit guided, God pleasing outcome to these deliberations.

Submitted by: Rev. Kenn Storck, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Rockford, IL on behalf of the North Conference Ministerium and rostered leaders and members of congregations in the Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA  
Signers: Rev. Gary Park, Rev. Rob James, Rev. Paul Wold, Rev. Denver Bitner, Rev. Troy Hedrick, Rev. Jay Quinn, Rev. Dell Olson, Rev. Luverne Runestad, Rev. Rich Likeness, Rev. Loren Nielsen, Rev. Chris Hawkins, Rev. Frances R. Olson, Rev. Don Lavelle, Rev. Woody Knutson, Rev. Kim Roberts, Rev. John Heins, Ron Burmeister MD, Sarah Storck, Ellen Storck, Carol Ostrom, Rick Brenton, Rev. Kenn Storck, Carol Burmeister, Rachel Storck, Dar Crumb, Liz Schultz, Rev. Frank Moyer, Kyle Wolfe, Elizabeth Storck, Kay Becker, Donda Toti

Contact Person: Rev. Kenn Storck

Date Received: April 11, 2009

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### **Action of the Resolution Committee**

Date of Action: April 13, 2009

Action Taken: Recommend referral to Quasi Committee of the Whole

**REJECTING RECOMMENDATIONS ON MINISTRY POLICY  
AND AFFIRMING CURRENT ELCA POLICY**

**WHEREAS**, the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted “to direct the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality specifically to address and to make recommendations to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on changes to any church policies that preclude practicing homosexual persons from the rosters of this church;” and

**WHEREAS**, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will consider recommendations from the *Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policies* from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policies* asks the ELCA to change its teaching and policy to affirm the possibility of same-sex sexual relationships for pastors and other rostered leaders in the ELCA; and

**WHEREAS**, the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states: “This church accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life” (*ELCA Constitution, 2.03*); and

**WHEREAS**, many ELCA members and most Christian churches – including most churches in the Lutheran World Federation – believe that Scripture is clear in its teaching about marriage and homosexual behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, a synodical or congregational option on ministry standards would represent a real change in the teaching of our church forcing even those synods and congregations that do not agree with this change implicitly to accept the notion that Scripture is not clear in its teaching about marriage or about homosexual behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, the interdependent relationship between the churchwide, synod, and congregational expressions of the ELCA requires one Office of Ministry, one roster of pastors, and one set of expectations for pastors and other rostered leaders throughout the ELCA; and

**WHEREAS**, the ELCA currently expresses its expectations of pastors and other rostered leaders through documents called *Vision and Expectations* and *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* which have served the ELCA well for most of its history; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly thank the members of Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality for their work; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to reject the proposals in the *Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policies* from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to reaffirm the ELCA’s current standards for pastors and other rostered leaders as expressed in *Vision and Expectations* and *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*.

Submitted by: Rev. Daniel Metzger, Ms. Mary Howe, Rev. Steven Erickson, Rev. Bret Reedy, Rev. Frederick Baltz,  
Rev. Keith Forni, Mr. George Vodden, Rev. Todd Peterson, Rev. Bryce Formwalt, Rev. Carl Rasmussen, Ms.  
Jean Margheim, Rev. Rodney Juell, Ms. Jo Boehmer, Mr. Dale Fiste, Rev. Douglas Johnson, Mr.  
Michael Krupa, Rev. Charles Steinke

Contact Person: Rev. Carl Rasmussen  
Date Received: April 7, 2009

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**Action of the Resolution Committee**

Date of Action: April 13, 2009

Action Taken: Recommend referral to Quasi Committee of the Whole and to allow this resolution (R-2) to serve as a substitution for the identical resolution R-3

**R-3**  
**(IDENTICAL TO R-2)**

**REJECTING RECOMMENDATIONS ON MINISTRY POLICY  
AND AFFIRMING CURRENT ELCA POLICY**

**WHEREAS**, the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted “to direct the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality specifically to address and to make recommendations to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on changes to any church policies that preclude practicing homosexual persons from the rosters of this church;” and

**WHEREAS**, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will consider recommendations from the *Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policies* from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policies* asks the ELCA to change its teaching and policy to affirm the possibility of same-sex sexual relationships for pastors and other rostered leaders in the ELCA; and

**WHEREAS**, the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states: “This church accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life” (*ELCA Constitution, 2.03*); and

**WHEREAS**, many ELCA members and most Christian churches – including most churches in the Lutheran World Federation – believe that Scripture is clear in its teaching about marriage and homosexual behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, a synodical or congregational option on ministry standards would represent a real change in the teaching of our church forcing even those synods and congregations that do not agree with this change implicitly to accept the notion that Scripture is not clear in its teaching about marriage or about homosexual behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, the interdependent relationship between the churchwide, synod, and congregational expressions of the ELCA requires one Office of Ministry, one roster of pastors, and one set of expectations for pastors and other rostered leaders throughout the ELCA; and

**WHEREAS**, the ELCA currently expresses its expectations of pastors and other rostered leaders through documents called *Vision and Expectations* and *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* which have served the ELCA well for most of its history; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly thank the members of Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality for their work; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to reject the proposals in the *Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policies* from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to reaffirm the ELCA’s current standards for pastors and other rostered leaders as expressed in *Vision and Expectations* and *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*.

Submitted by: Congregation Council, Joyful Harvest Church, ELCA – Rev. Bryce Formwalt; Mr. Larry Konieczski, President; Mr. Leland Carpenter, Vice President; Ms. Heidi Aavang, Secretary; Mr. Michael Dunn, Council Member; Ms. Roberta Miller, Council Member

Contact Person: Rev. Bryce Formwalt  
Date Received: April 9, 2009

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**Action of the Resolution Committee**

Date of Action: April 13, 2009

Action Taken: Recommend that R-2 serve as a substitution for this identical resolution (R-3)

**R-4**

**FOCUS ON GREENING OF CONGREGATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, the youth of the Northern Illinois Synod have sparked a healthy interest in care for creation among the congregations of this Synod; and

**WHEREAS**, the Synod’s “Green Team” has worked to increase interest in care for creation among NIS conferences and congregations; and

**WHEREAS**, a generous donation of time and talent has resulted in the training of 32 NIS congregation members to do energy audits in their respective congregations and communities;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that each congregation consider completing an energy audit of all church properties by the end of 2010; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that each congregation be encouraged to seek ways to reach out to other churches and non-profit agencies in their respective communities to promote care for creation in a spirit of evangelism and community service.

Submitted by: Northern Illinois Synod, Social Ministry Committee  
Northern Illinois Synod, Green Team

Contact Person: Rev. Don Knowles  
Date Received: April 13, 2009

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**Action of the Resolution Committee**

Date of Action: April 13, 2009  
Action Taken: Recommend adoption of the resolution

**R-5**

**REMEMBER NIU-LCM MISSION**

**WHEREAS**, the Northern Illinois Synod leadership has established the goal of full-time pastoral support at Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of LCM is important to the growth of the Lutheran church; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of LCM is important to the faithful nurture and support of our young adults; and

**WHEREAS**, congregations and individuals of the Northern Illinois Synod have generously given almost one-third of the \$200,000 goal to support the full-time LCM ministry until it can be incorporated into the synod budget;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that pastors and congregation members be challenged to keep the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University mission and financial challenge in their thoughts, prayers, and giving by:

1. Prayerfully considering a donation in their budget planning for next year;
2. Remembering the LCM-NIU mission on the February 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the campus shootings;
3. Encouraging individual, memorial and endowment donations by having brochures and contact information available in each congregation;
4. Remembering and honoring pledges made; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that gratitude be expressed for the generous donations that have been made and continue to be made by congregations, organizations and individuals.

Submitted by: Northern Illinois Lutheran Campus Ministry Task Force

Contact Person: Rev. Diane Dardon, NIU Lutheran Campus Ministry, Dekalb

Date Received: April 13, 2009

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**Action of the Resolution Committee**

Date of Action: April 13, 2009

Action Taken: Recommend adoption of the resolution

**R-6**

**DIAKONIA™ RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, we are commanded to "...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you" (Matt. 28: 16-20); and

**WHEREAS**, we are given the command to love one another ("Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" John 13:34); and

**WHEREAS**, diakonia™ is a program of lay theological education designed to prepare Christians to fulfill their baptismal calling as servants of Christ; and

**WHEREAS**, diakonia™ prepares Christians of many ages, with different educational backgrounds and different goals, for ministry and servanthood through a two-year process of spiritual and theological formation; and

**WHEREAS**, diakonia™ provides systematic training to adults during weekly classes in Bible, church history, theology, and practical ministry; and

**WHEREAS**, diakonia™ provides lay adults with opportunities to assess their God-given talents and how best to apply them; and

**WHEREAS**, diakonia™ equips lay people to teach, empower, and befriend the needy in our midst, feed the hungry, and witness to the power of the Gospel; and

**WHEREAS**, the church of today is in need of knowledgeable, committed, and empowered lay leaders;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that every congregation of the Northern Illinois Synod be encouraged to support Northern Illinois Synod diakonia™ program by the following actions:

1. making congregational members aware of the benefits of diakonia™ through bulletin announcements, Web site links, and newsletters,
2. supporting members who may be seeking to learn more about their faith,
3. hosting Northern Illinois Synod diakonia™ graduates for temple talks and/or presentations to congregational groups,
4. providing financial support for members to participate in diakonia™,
5. encouraging congregational leaders to participate in diakonia™, and
6. assisting diakonia™ graduates of the Northern Illinois Synod to identify roles for ministry in congregations and in the Synod;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that:

1. all voting members of this Synod Assembly are encouraged to covenant together to support lay education through their prayers and actions; and
2. this Synod celebrate and continue to support and strengthen graduates in recognition of the faith they have exhibited in and through their dedication to the study of God’s Word and their willingness to serve God.

Submitted by: Northern Illinois diakonia™ Committee

Contact Person: Ms. Denise Rode and Mr. Douglas Liston

Date Received: April 13, 2009

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**Action of the Resolution Committee**

Date of Action: April 13, 2009

Action Taken: Recommend adoption of the resolution

**R-7**

**WORLD HUNGER**

**WHEREAS**, the Northern Illinois Synod is a leading contributor to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal; and

**WHEREAS**, a small group of ELCA pastors will be conducting a bicycle tour throughout the country May 13 – August 20, 2009, to benefit the World Hunger Appeal;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod be encouraged to offer their support for this tour (called “tourderevs”) through their prayers, interest, and financial contributions to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. (More information can be found at [www.tourderevs.org](http://www.tourderevs.org), including how to donate. They will be on site in the Northern Illinois Synod, August 7-9.)

Submitted by: Northern Illinois Synod, World Hunger Sub-Committee

Contact Person: Rev. Rick Meier

Date Received: April 9, 2009

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**Action of the Resolution Committee**

Date of Action: April 13, 2009

Action Taken: Recommend adoption of the resolution

**R-8**

**SUPER MAJORITY**

**WHEREAS**, the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted “to direct the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality specifically to address and to make recommendations to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on changes to any church policies that preclude practicing homosexual persons from the rosters of this church;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Constitutional and Legal Committee of the ELCA Church Council recommended that “any motion to come before this Churchwide Assembly regarding changes in this church’s current policy and practice for the rostering of ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, associate in ministry, and deaconesses shall require a two-thirds vote by the assembly for adoption;” and

**WHEREAS**, the ELCA Church Council voted 19-10 to delete this provision and is recommending rules of procedure for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly which would require only a simple majority vote to change ELCA standards to allow pastors and other rostered leaders to be in same-sex sexual relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, a two-thirds majority vote is usually required for major decisions including the adoption of an ELCA social statement and for amendments to the ELCA constitution and bylaws; and

**WHEREAS**, a decision to change church teaching and policy to allow pastors and other rostered leaders to be in same-sex sexual relationships holds the potential to be very divisive in ELCA synods and congregations and to cause both membership and financial losses for synods and congregations; and

**WHEREAS**, the ELCA is seeking ways to make decisions on a consensus basis rather than by close votes; and

**WHEREAS**, a super majority vote – such as a two-thirds majority – would require an overwhelming majority of Churchwide Assembly voting members to make such a significant change to church teaching and practice; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will adopt its rules for the assembly and could set a two-thirds majority for adoption of any changes to standards for pastors and other rostered leaders;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to add the following provision to the rules of procedures for the assembly: “Any motion to come before this Churchwide Assembly regarding changes in this church’s current policy and practice for the rostering of ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry, and deaconesses shall require a two-thirds vote by the assembly for adoption.”

Submitted by: Rev. Daniel Metzger, Ms. Mary Howe, Rev. Steven Erickson, Rev. Bret Reedy, Rev. Frederick Baltz, Rev. Keith Forni, Mr. George Vodden, Rev. Todd Peterson, Rev. Bryce Formwalt, Rev. Carl Rasmussen, Ms. Jean Margheim, Rev. Rodney Juell, Ms. Jo Boehmer, Mr. Dale Fiste, Rev. Douglas Johnson, Mr. Michael Krupa, Rev. Charles Steinke

Contact Person: Rev. Carl Rasmussen

Date Received: April 7, 2009

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**Action of the Resolution Committee**

Date of Action: April 13, 2009

Action Taken: Recommend adoption of the resolution and to allow this resolution (R-8) to serve as a substitution for the identical resolution R-9 and similar resolution R-10

**R-9  
(IDENTICAL TO R-8)**

**SUPER MAJORITY**

**WHEREAS**, the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted “to direct the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality specifically to address and to make recommendations to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on changes to any church policies that preclude practicing homosexual persons from the rosters of this church;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Constitutional and Legal Committee of the ELCA Church Council recommended that “any motion to come before this Churchwide Assembly regarding changes in this church’s current policy and practice for the rostering of ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, associate in ministry, and deaconesses shall require a two-thirds vote by the assembly for adoption;” and

**WHEREAS**, the ELCA Church Council voted 19-10 to delete this provision and is recommending rules of procedure for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly which would require only a simple majority vote to change ELCA standards to allow pastors and other rostered leaders to be in same-sex sexual relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, a two-thirds majority vote is usually required for major decisions including the adoption of an ELCA social statement and for amendments to the ELCA constitution and bylaws; and

**WHEREAS**, a decision to change church teaching and policy to allow pastors and other rostered leaders to be in same-sex sexual relationships holds the potential to be very divisive in ELCA synods and congregations and to cause both membership and financial losses for synods and congregations; and

**WHEREAS**, the ELCA is seeking ways to make decisions on a consensus basis rather than by close votes; and

**WHEREAS**, a super majority vote – such as a two-thirds majority – would require an overwhelming majority of Churchwide Assembly voting members to make such a significant change to church teaching and practice; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will adopt its rules for the assembly and could set a two-thirds majority for adoption of any changes to standards for pastors and other rostered leaders;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to add the following provision to the rules of procedures for the assembly: “Any motion to come before this Churchwide Assembly regarding changes in this church’s current policy and practice for the rostering of ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry, and deaconesses shall require a two-thirds vote by the assembly for adoption.”

Submitted by: Congregation Council, Joyful Harvest Church, ELCA – Rev. Bryce Formwalt; Mr. Larry Konieczski, President; Mr. Leland Carpenter, Vice President; Ms. Heidi Aavang, Secretary; Mr. Michael Dunn, Council Member; Ms. Roberta Miller, Council Member

Contact Person: Rev. Bryce Formwalt  
Date Received: April 9, 2009

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**Action of the Resolution Committee**

Date of Action: April 13, 2009

Action Taken: Recommend that R-8 serve as a substitution for this identical resolution (R-9)

**R-10  
(SIMILAR TO R-8)**

**“TWO-THIRDS VOTE FOR RECOMMENDED MINISTRY PRACTICES”**

**WHEREAS**, a 2/3 majority vote is required to adopt the ELCA Human Sexuality social statement, and

**WHEREAS**, the task force has proposed four resolutions on ministry practices directly related to the Human Sexuality statement, and

**WHEREAS**, the Churchwide Assembly is asked to determine whether “this church” is ready to move forward with any or all of four recommendations for ministry practice, and

**WHEREAS**, action on these resolutions will lead to the determination of ministry practices which will impact the entire church,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialize the Churchwide Assembly that a 2/3 majority vote be required for the adoption of each of the recommended ministry practices.

Submitted by: Northern Illinois Synod, East Conference Members – Rev. Peter Holmer, Rev. Bret Reedy, Rev. Rodney Juell, Rev. Robert Peterson, Rev. Ron Voss, Rev. Dave Hedlin, Rev. Gene Peisker, Rev. Alan Creighton, Rev. Bruce Booher, Rev. Keith Forni

Contact Person: Rev. Peter Holmer

Date Received: April 9, 2009

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**Action of the Resolution Committee**

Date of Action: April 13, 2009

Action Taken: Recommend that R-8 serve as a substitution for this similar resolution (R-10)

**R-11**

**REJECTING PROPOSED SOCIAL STATEMENT AND  
AFFIRMING CURRENT TEACHING DOCUMENTS ON SEXUALITY**

**WHEREAS**, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will consider the adoption of *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* as a possible Social Statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

**WHEREAS**, “Social statements and other resources on social concerns build on the rich legacy of the church bodies that united to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As a confessional church with an historical sense, this church continues to look to the social statements of The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America for guidance, while it develops its own social statements and further deliberates on social concerns” (*Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for addressing Social Concerns*); and

**WHEREAS**, the Lutheran Confessions state: “We believe, teach, and confess that the only rule and guiding principle according to which all teachings and teachers are to be evaluated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments alone” (*Book of Concord, Formula of Concord, Epitome, Rule & Norm*); and

**WHEREAS**, the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states: “This church accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life” (*ELCA Constitution, 2.03*); and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, the current teaching of the ELCA on human sexuality is guided by the ELCA Messages *Sexuality: Some Common Convictions* (1996) and *Commercial Sexual Exploitation* (2001); and by the social statements of the ELCA’s predecessor churches: *Sex, Marriage, and Family – A Social Statement of the Lutheran Church in America* (1970); *Human Sexuality and Sexual Behavior – A Social Statement of The American Lutheran Church* (1980); and *Teachings and Practice on Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage – A Social Statement of The American Lutheran Church* (1982); and

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* as a Social Statement of the ELCA would replace the ELCA Message *Sexuality: Some Common Convictions* and the predecessor church statements with a document that is less helpful than its predecessor documents and distances the ELCA from Scripture and from the rich legacy of the church bodies that united to form the ELCA; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly thank the members of Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality for their work; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to reject *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* as a proposed Social Statement for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to affirm the teaching of the ELCA Messages *Sexuality: Some Common Convictions* (1996) and *Commercial Sexual Exploitation* (2001); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to express the ELCA's intention to continue to rely on the social statements of its predecessor churches – *Sex, Marriage, and Family – A Social Statement of the Lutheran Church in America* (1970); *Human Sexuality and Sexual Behavior – A Social Statement of The American Lutheran Church* (1980); and *Teachings and Practice on Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage – A Social Statement of The American Lutheran Church* (1982) – as historical documents expressing faithful Christian teaching on human sexuality.

Submitted by: Rev. Daniel Metzger, Ms. Mary Howe, Rev. Steven Erickson, Rev. Bret Reedy, Rev. Frederick Baltz, Rev. Keith Forni, Mr. George Vodden, Rev. Todd Peterson, Rev. Bryce Formwalt, Rev. Carl Rasmussen, Ms. Jean Margheim, Rev. Rodney Juell, Ms. Jo Boehmer, Mr. Dale Fiste, Rev. Douglas Johnson, Mr. Michael Krupa, Rev. Charles Steinke

Contact Person: Rev. Carl Rasmussen

Date Received: April 7, 2009

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**Action of the Resolution Committee**

Date of Action: April 13, 2009

Action Taken: Recommend defeat of the resolution and to allow this resolution (R-11) to serve as a substitution for the identical resolution R-12

**R-12  
(IDENTICAL TO R-11)**

**REJECTING PROPOSED SOCIAL STATEMENT AND  
AFFIRMING CURRENT TEACHING DOCUMENTS ON SEXUALITY**

**WHEREAS**, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will consider the adoption of *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* as a possible Social Statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

**WHEREAS**, “Social statements and other resources on social concerns build on the rich legacy of the church bodies that united to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As a confessional church with an historical sense, this church continues to look to the social statements of The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America for guidance, while it develops its own social statements and further deliberates on social concerns” (*Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for addressing Social Concerns*); and

**WHEREAS**, the Lutheran Confessions state: “We believe, teach, and confess that the only rule and guiding principle according to which all teachings and teachers are to be evaluated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments alone” (*Book of Concord, Formula of Concord, Epitome, Rule & Norm*); and

**WHEREAS**, the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states: “This church accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life” (*ELCA Constitution, 2.03*); and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, the current teaching of the ELCA on human sexuality is guided by the ELCA Messages *Sexuality: Some Common Convictions* (1996) and *Commercial Sexual Exploitation* (2001); and by the social statements of the ELCA's predecessor churches: *Sex, Marriage, and Family – A Social Statement of the Lutheran Church in America* (1970); *Human Sexuality and Sexual Behavior – A Social Statement of The American Lutheran Church* (1980); and *Teachings and Practice on Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage – A Social Statement of The American Lutheran Church* (1982); and

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* as a Social Statement of the ELCA would replace the ELCA Message *Sexuality: Some Common Convictions* and the predecessor church statements with a document that is less helpful than its predecessor documents and distances the ELCA from Scripture and from the rich legacy of the church bodies that united to form the ELCA; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly thank the members of Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality for their work; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to reject *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* as a proposed Social Statement for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to affirm the teaching of the ELCA Messages *Sexuality: Some Common Convictions* (1996) and *Commercial Sexual Exploitation* (2001); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to express the ELCA's intention to continue to rely on the social statements of its predecessor churches – *Sex, Marriage, and Family – A Social Statement of the Lutheran Church in America* (1970); *Human Sexuality and Sexual Behavior – A Social Statement of The American Lutheran Church* (1980); and *Teachings and Practice on Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage – A Social Statement of The American Lutheran Church* (1982) – as historical documents expressing faithful Christian teaching on human sexuality.

Submitted by: Congregation Council, Joyful Harvest Church, ELCA – Rev. Bryce Formwalt;  
Mr. Larry Konieczski, President; Mr. Leland Carpenter, Vice President; Ms. Heidi Aavang, Secretary; Mr. Michael Dunn, Council Member; Ms. Roberta Miller, Council Member

Contact Person: Rev. Bryce Formwalt  
Date Received: April 9, 2009

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**Action of the Resolution Committee**

Date of Action: April 13, 2009

Action Taken: Recommend that R-11 serve as a substitution for this identical resolution (R-12)

**R-13**

**AFFIRM ACTIONS OF THE TASK FORCE FOR ELCA STUDIES ON SEXUALITY**  
**With regard to the proposed Social Statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust***

**WHEREAS**, the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly urged every part of the ELCA to “concentrate on finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of disagreements, recognizing the God-given mission and communion that we share as members of the body of Christ”; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly encouraged the ELCA's synods, bishops and presiding bishop to “refrain from or demonstrate restraint in disciplining’ people and congregations who call qualified leaders on the professional rosters of the ELCA ‘who are in a mutual, chaste and faithful, committed, same-gender relationship;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Northern Illinois Synod resolved at its 2007 assembly that “the Vocation and Education Unit [of the ELCA], in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, develop an amendment to the document known as *Visions and Expectations* that removes provisions requiring persons who are ‘homosexual in their self-understanding’ to ‘abstain from homosexual relationships.’”(NIS-Resolution R-6 – 2007 Assembly); and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality has completed its work, providing the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, with *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality has provided *Recommendation on Ministry Policy* as mandated by the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to offer thanks and appreciation for the faithful work of the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to receive and accept: *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* as an official Social Statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly call on all in the ELCA to pray for a Christ-centered, Spirit guided, God pleasing outcome to these deliberations.

Submitted by: Rev. Kenn Storck, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Rockford, IL on behalf of the North Conference Ministerium and rostered leaders and members of congregations in the Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA  
Signers: Rev. Gary Park, Rev. Rob James, Rev. Paul Wold, Rev. Denver Bitner, Rev. Troy Hedrick, Rev. John Heins, Ron Burmeister MD, Sarah Storck, Rev. Jay Quinn, Rev. Dell Olson, Rev. Luverne Runestad, Rev. Rich Likeness, Rev. Loren Nielsen, Rev. Kenn Storck, Carol Burmeister, Rachel Storck, Rev. Chris Hawkins, Rev. Frances R. Olson, Rev. Don Lavelle, Rev. Woody Knutson, Rev. Jim Roberts, Rev. Frank Moyer, Kyle Wolfe, Elizabeth Storck, Ellen Storck, Carol Ostrom, Rick Brenton, Dar Crumb, Liz Schultz, Kay Becker, Donda Toti

Contact Person: Rev. Kenn Storck  
Date Received: April 11, 2009

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**Action of the Resolution Committee**

Date of Action: April 13, 2009  
Action Taken: Recommend adoption of the resolution

**R-14**

**ENCOURAGE NIS CONGREGATIONS TO STUDY ECONOMICS  
AS A MATTER OF FAITH**

**WHEREAS**, despite its secularization over the years, the very term “economics” has its origin in classical theological thought; and

**WHEREAS**, the current economic crisis affecting the lives of persons locally, regionally, nationally and globally has become a matter of crucial importance to the mission of the Church; and

**WHEREAS**, many members of ELCA congregations and the communities they serve are suffering as a consequence of economic outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, the call to follow Christ Jesus is a call to seek justice for all and to minister to those who suffer hardship of any kind; and

**WHEREAS**, the voting members of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 1999 adopted a Social Statement on Economic Life entitled, “Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All,” and enacted Implementing Resolutions calling for ongoing attention to the pursuit of economic justice as a matter of faith;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that in 2009-2010 the members of all Northern Illinois Synod congregations be encouraged to renew their acquaintance with the 1999 ELCA Social Statement, “Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All;” and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the members of Northern Illinois Synod seek, as a matter of faith, opportunities to impact public economic policy in ways which honor God’s creation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in the regular annual assemblies of each of the eight NIS Conferences, the Conference Deans receive reports on such activities and ideas as may emerge from congregational studies on economic policy, and forward these to Lutheran Advocacy – Illinois, the ELCA Public Policy Advocacy Office in Illinois for review and possible action.

Submitted by: Northern Illinois Synod, Social Ministry Committee

Contact Person: Rev. Kurt Hansen

Date Received: April 13, 2009

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**Action of the Resolution Committee**

Date of Action: April 13, 2009

Action Taken: Recommend adoption of the resolution

**R-15**

**PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN AND  
FOR WOMEN FACING PROBLEMATIC PREGNANCIES**

**WHEREAS**, “A Social Statement on Abortion” adopted by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 1991 affirmed that “our love for our neighbor embraces especially those who are most vulnerable, including both the pregnant woman and the life in her womb;” and

**WHEREAS**, prayer is an indispensable aspect of Christian love for the neighbor – a fact elucidated by one Lutheran theologian when he wrote: “For by prayer love of neighbor is integrated into believers’ relation to God as participation in his love for the world. Prayer prevents the practice of neighborly love from becoming simply our own moral work” (Wolfhart Pannenberg, *Systematic Theology* 3, p. 205); and

**WHEREAS**, a common resource for intercessory prayer in the liturgies of ELCA congregations, *Sundays and Seasons*, rarely if ever includes the unborn or women facing problematic pregnancies among the vulnerable for whom we are encouraged to pray; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that each year the congregations of this synod shall be reminded and encouraged, through *Walking Together*, to include on the Sunday nearest to March 25, The Annunciation of Our Lord, intercessions for the unborn and for women facing problematic pregnancies.

Submitted by: Rev. Gary Blobaum, Rev. Keith Forni, Mr. Jeff Janke, Rev. Carol Soderholm, Rev. Charles Olson, Rev. Todd Peterson, Rev. Carl Rasmussen, Ms. Judy Rooney, Ms. Susan Senti, Mr. George Vodden, Ms. Mary Howe, Mr. Richard Larabee, Rev. Rodney Juell

Contact Person: Rev. Gary Blobaum or Rev. Carl Rasmussen

Date Received: April 6, 2009

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**Action of the Resolution Committee**

Date of Action: April 13, 2009

Action Taken: Recommend adoption of the resolution

**R-16**

**RESOLUTION REGARDING  
STATE FUNDING OF HUMAN CARE PROGRAMS**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Illinois and faith-based voluntary human care organizations, such as Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), share a common commitment to assist people in need to attain and sustain a standard of living that reflects the dignity to which every person is entitled; and

**WHEREAS**, the State assumes such responsibility based on its constitutional mandate to “...provide for the health, safety and welfare of the people...eliminate poverty and inequality...assure legal, social and economic

justice [and] provide opportunity for the fullest development of the individual...” (from the Preamble to the Illinois State Constitution); and

**WHEREAS**, members, congregations and institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (of which LSSI is a ministry) assume responsibility for people in need based on our biblical mandate to care for people as if we were caring for Christ himself (Matthew 25:40); and

**WHEREAS**, the confluence of constitutional and biblical mandates to care for people in need has produced the current pattern of partnership between the state and Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. That partnership, while continuing to be a very effective and efficient way to respond to people in need, has become extremely challenged in recent years as state funding has paid a decreasing share of the cost of providing needed services. The gap between the full cost of providing services and the share of such costs paid for by the state has widened to the point where many voluntary organizations have to raise enormous sums of private contributions to subsidize state contracts. Consequently, private human service providers are unable to respond to many unmet needs through programs not mandated by the state, an activity at which they previously excelled. In addition, in recent years, the state has handled its growing fiscal crisis by delaying payments to vendors, including human care providers. As a result, many vendors—including LSSI-- have had to borrow funds to cover their own cash flow needs while they await payment from the state. The cost of such borrowing has put increased financial pressure on those organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, it is fundamental in any discussion of state funding for human services that the focus of concern be kept on the needs of disadvantaged people. Our concern is not primarily on the institutional self-preservation of our agency. Our agency exists for only one reason, to serve people in need in the name of Jesus; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that the State of Illinois, like most other states, is facing the worst fiscal crisis since the Great Depression. The current fiscal crisis is not a temporary phenomenon that is likely to be short-lived. Rather, we are convinced that, even before the current widespread economic downturn there were fundamental structural problems built into the current state revenue system. The two most significant structural problems are:

- 1) Illinois does not raise enough revenue to pay for “natural growth” in essential state services, especially services intended to assist people in need.
- 2) The revenue system in Illinois places a disproportionately large tax burden on low- and lower-middle-income people and families as compared to the tax burden on wealthier persons; and

**WHEREAS**, there are several options for increasing state revenue, prioritizing spending and increasing personal commitment, all of which should be considered, it is likely, however, that the only way to raise sufficient new revenue is to raise the state income tax rate. Because of the flat income tax rate mandated by the Illinois Constitution, any income tax increase should be coupled with an increase in the personal exemption and the expansion of the state Earned Income Tax Credit to offset the impact of the income tax increase on low-income people;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly calls upon our Bishop and our members to ask Governor Quinn and the members of the Illinois General Assembly to:

- 1) craft long-term and sustainable funding solutions to problems in funding of human services to protect disadvantaged people by preserving all “safety net” programs;
- 2) increase the state income tax rate to a level which produces sufficient revenue to fund vital state services;
- 3) protect more low-income households from the proposed tax increase by
  - a) increasing the personal exemption, and
  - b) expanding and making permanent and refundable the state Earned Income Tax Credit;
- 4) consider additional revenue options that do not disproportionately burden low-income persons and families;
- 5) review tax expenditures that may be ineffective or for which there is little or no accountability for the positive impacts intended when they were adopted;

- 6) maximize the number of federal dollars drawn to Illinois; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois Synod calls upon Lutheran Church leaders in Illinois to:

- 1) provide leadership, along with LSSI, in convening religious leaders across Illinois publicly to raise moral concern about the injustices in current tax policy and spending priorities and the threat to state funding for services to people in need;
- 2) support the efforts of LSSI and other organizations to educate Lutherans in Illinois about the fiscal and justice issues related to Illinois tax policy and spending priorities and why the state income tax rate needs to be raised; and
- 3) lead the church in prayer for public officials, for disadvantaged people in Illinois and for organizations that serve people in need; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois Synod strongly encourage the congregations and members of the Synod to:

- 1) study issues relating to tax and budget issues;
- 2) prayerfully consider increasing their personal giving in response to injustices and inadequacies in the current revenue system in Illinois;
- 3) embrace the understanding that an equitable income tax increase is necessary in order to preserve vital state services to people in need and to provide just tax relief to low-income workers and families;
- 4) communicate their support for an equitable income tax increase to their local legislators;
- 5) pray for – and encourage other members of their congregations to pray for – wisdom for Governor Quinn and members of the Illinois General Assembly as they consider the important issues of justice and compassion facing our state; and
- 6) surround in prayer the children, women and men who rely on the services provided by LSSI and other voluntary organizations in partnership with the state.

Submitted by: Rev. Paul Carlson, Rev. Peter Holmer, Rev. Linda Jones, Rev. Jennifer Beamsley, Rev. Nichole Johnson, Rev. Raket Evenson, Rev. Ben Ingelson, Rev. Mike Clark, Rev. Roger Hurlbut, Rev. Richard Priggie

Contact Person: Rev. Paul Carlson

Date Received: April 3, 2009

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**Action of the Resolution Committee**

Date of Action: April 13, 2009

Action Taken: Recommend adoption of the resolution