

1 **A MEMORIAL CONCERNING HUMAN SEXUALITY**
2 **FROM THE METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD TO THE 2009**
3 **CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY**
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5 WHEREAS, the Task Force for ELCA Studies in Sexuality has earnestly studied and
6 struggled with these matters for eight years, and their work models and invites
7 mutually respectful dialogue about sexuality throughout this church; and
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9 WHEREAS, the proposed Social Statement powerfully proclaims this church's teachings on
10 trust, love, and service to the neighbor as the proper foundation of sexuality,
11 while honestly recognizing that there is no consensus regarding same-gender
12 relationships or the rostered ministry of people in them; and
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14 WHEREAS, the ELCA Church Council, at its March 2009 meeting, voted by an
15 overwhelming margin to recommend to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly the
16 proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality, its implementing resolutions,
17 and a Recommendation on Ministry Policies; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Recommendation on Ministry Policies allows a way to maintain a uniform
20 standard and process for candidacy and call throughout this church while
21 respecting the bound consciences of all; and
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23 WHEREAS, the time has come for both those in this church who support publicly
24 accountable, lifelong, monogamous same-gender relationships and those who
25 oppose them to join together in creating a means to continue living together
26 faithfully in the midst of disagreement; now, therefore, be it
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28 RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the
29 2009 Churchwide Assembly as follows:

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31 To adopt the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality and its
32 implementing resolutions, as recommended by the ELCA Church Council.
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34 To adopt the four parts of the proposed Recommendation on Ministry Policies, as
35 recommended by the ELCA Church Council.
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37 To adopt the following additional implementing resolution of the Social
38 Statement on Human Sexuality: "To direct appropriate churchwide units to
39 develop, in consultation with those most affected, resources for congregations or

40 faith-communities and ministers that choose to do so to support same-gender
41 relationships by holding them publicly accountable in the exchange of promises
42 of lifelong love and fidelity.”

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44 To adopt the following: “Resolved, that the Vocation and Education unit be
45 directed to develop, and the Church Council be directed to approve, procedures
46 for the reception from another Lutheran church-body and for the expedited
47 reinstatement to the roster or to candidacy of those whose rostering was
48 precluded by previous policies on same-gender relationships.”

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51 Submitted by:

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