

1 **MEMORIAL TO SUPPORT THE ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDED PROPOSED**
2 **SOCIAL STATEMENT: *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action***

3 WHEREAS, social statements are social teaching documents that “equip the saints for
4 the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12)
5 by bringing into “dialogue the convictions of faith with the realities of the
6 world and the experience of Christians living out their baptismal
7 vocation”*— and *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action* is
8 a comprehensive, creatively-organized teaching document that will equip
9 members and build up the church by clarifying biblical texts, utilizing
10 scientific knowledge and human reason, and articulating Lutheran
11 theology that speaks truth with charity; and

12 WHEREAS, social statements are intended to help members “discern God’s will for
13 today,” offer moral direction on how to view an issue, foster moral
14 conversation, and act justly as followers of Christ* —and *Faith, Sexism,*
15 *and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action* sets forth ethical thinking and
16 evaluation by: analyzing the complex effects of patriarchy and sexism on
17 church and society, including on women and girls of color, the LGBTQ
18 community, and gender non-conforming people; introducing the concept of
19 neighbor justice, intersecting forms of discrimination, and principles for
20 creating and supporting justice; and calling the church to redress the
21 wrongs of the past and present; and

22 WHEREAS, social statements are the result of extensive, participatory discussion
23 throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and are shaped
24 by careful listening to all quarters of this church, to society, as well as to
25 other church bodies and ecumenical organizations* —and *Faith, Sexism,*
26 *and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action* has been a decade in the making
27 that has consisted of: listening events in 2013, 2014, and 2015; the
28 publication of study materials in 2014 and 2015; the production of the
29 Church Council-approved social message “Gender-based Violence”
30 (2015); the publishing of the study “Faith, Sexism, and Justice:
31 Conversations Toward a Social Statement” (2016) with responses to it
32 throughout 2017; the writing of the draft women and justice statement
33 (2017) with responses to it as well as synodical hearings on it in 2018,
34 including at last year’s Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly; interaction
35 with other denominations and with the Lutheran World Federation; and
36 review by the ELCA Conference of Bishops and Church Council; and

37 WHEREAS, social statements, as the ELCA’s primary social teaching documents,
38 govern this church’s institutional life, its policies and practices, setting forth
39 expectations for the church’s agencies and institutions, its advocacy to
40 government and the private sector, and its ecumenical and interfaith
41 relations*—and *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action*, in
42 response to theological convictions and social analysis, calls the ELCA to
43 commitments within its institutional life to honor and support women and

44 girls “in ways more consistent with life-giving theology and faith practices,”
45 and to commitments in society to “seek justice in earthly relationships,
46 structures, and systems”;** therefore be it

47 RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod in assembly memorialize the 2019
48 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to adopt the recommended proposed social
49 statement *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action* and all
50 implementing resolutions.

51 **Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing*
52 *Social Concerns, 2019.*

53 ***Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action*, Short Statement, Articles 24
54 and 31, respectively.

55 Submitted by:

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