

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

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

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

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

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

44 commitments within its institutional life to honor and support women and
45 girls “in ways more consistent with life-giving theology and faith practices,”
46 and to commitments in society to “seek justice in earthly relationships,
47 structures, and systems”;^{**} therefore be it

48 RESOLVED, that the congregations, conferences, and agencies and institutions on the
49 territory of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod engage in study of *Faith,*
50 *Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action*, be guided by its
51 convictions and commitments, and review its implementing resolutions to
52 determine what specifically they may do to take action.

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

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

57 Submitted by:

58 *The Rev. Gail L. Heidtke, Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, Illinois

59 *Mr. Eric Draut, Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, Illinois

60 *Ms. Katheleen Gannegan, Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, Illinois

61

62 *Signatories