

2009 Pre-Assembly Report

ADDENDUM

Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

May 1-2, 2009

Mayo Civic Center, Rochester



Resolution 2009-07: Resolution of Welcome and Support to Persons of Same-Gender Sexual Orientation

1 WHEREAS, Lutherans believe that
2 what is at stake in the Bible is the
3 Gospel, and

4 WHEREAS, over the years, Lutherans
5 have changed the way they
6 understand various assumptions
7 and ideas of the Bible in light of
8 scientific discoveries by
9 astronomers, paleontologists,
10 biologists, etc., and

11 WHEREAS, not only in matters of
12 geophysics and history, but also in
13 very human matters, the church
14 has been led by the Gospel and
15 human understanding to turn away
16 from previously accepted “truths”
17 such as the inferiority of women,
18 dark-skinned people, and those
19 who are left-handed, and

20 WHEREAS, the study of human
21 sexuality now recognizes that
22 sexual orientation, though most
23 often an orientation toward
24 heterosexuality, also manifests
25 itself in a same-gender, or
26 homosexual orientation, and

27 WHEREAS, Lutherans now know
28 that the old fear of homosexuality
29 being contagious arose from
30 falsehood and misunderstanding,
31 and the concern that gay, lesbian,
32 bi-sexual and transgendered adults
33 might “recruit” young people to
34 same-gender orientation is based
35 on this falsehood, and

36 WHEREAS, members of Southeastern
37 Minnesota Synod congregations
38 during the past 20 years have
39 learned from gay, lesbian, bi-
40 sexual, and transgendered people
41 in their own families and
42 congregations that God can and
43 does call such people to lives of
44 faith and faithfulness without
45 renouncing their sexual orientation
46 and identity, just as the early
47 church learned over time that the
48 Holy Spirit did not require gentiles
49 to become Jews in order to be
50 welcome in the family of God,

51 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,
52 that the Southeastern Minnesota
53 Synod hereby declares in assembly
54 that it understands same-gender
55 sexual orientation to be part of
56 God’s good creation, not a
57 perversion of it; and that the time
58 has come for the church to commit
59 itself to welcoming and supporting
60 people with such orientation into
61 the full life of the church,
62 encouraging them to live by the
63 standards and commitments of
64 sexual faithfulness to which all
65 God’s children are called.

*Submitted by Rev. W. Bruce Benson and the
undersigned voting members of the 2009
Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly:*

*Rev. W. Bruce Benson, Rev. Joy Gonnerman,
Rev. Diane M. Goulson, Rev. Jennifer Anderson
Koenig, Rev. Judy Gustafson, Erin Armstrong,
Monika Hartsel, Rev. Joanna Mitchell, Rev.
Richard L. Jorgensen, Rev. Michael Gustafson,
Rev. Kristen Schlauderaff, Roger Sween,
Zashata Burton, Marcia Nagel, Jim Nagel, Tom
Engstrom, Dottie Barrett, Rev. Jason Bryan-
Wegner, Allan J. Bieber, Rev. Robert Albing*



Resolution 2009-08: That the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Become a Reconciling in Christ Synod

1 WHEREAS, in Baptism, we welcome
2 all into the community of faith;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, in Holy Communion, we
5 invite and welcome all to the
6 Lord's Table; and

7 WHEREAS, congregations of the
8 Southeastern Minnesota Synod of
9 the Evangelical Lutheran Church
10 in America have adopted public
11 statements of openness and
12 welcome; and

13 WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran
14 Church in America has been at
15 work since 2001 to develop and
16 state a foundational framework
17 that will help it discern what it
18 means faithfully to follow God's
19 law of love in the increasingly
20 complex sphere of human
21 sexuality; and

22 WHEREAS, some sectors of society
23 and some church bodies and
24 congregations shun gay, lesbian,
25 transgender, and bi-sexual people
26 from their midst; and

27 WHEREAS, the Reconciling in Christ
28 program of Lutherans Concerned /
29 North America provides resources
30 and linkages to congregations who
31 choose to affirm and welcome
32 people of all sexual orientations
33 and gender identities, otherwise
34 shunned; and

35 WHEREAS, the Reconciling in Christ
36 program exceeds 400 settings,
37 including twenty-four synods;
38 now,

39 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that
40 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod,
41 meeting in Assembly, request the
42 Southeastern Minnesota Synod
43 Council to become a Reconciling
44 in Christ member by developing,
45 adopting and submitting an
46 Affirmation of Welcome that may
47 also become a model to its
48 member congregations.

*Submitted by Rev. Judy A. Gustafson and
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Assembly:*

*Marcia Nagel, Jim Nagel, Tom Engstrom,
Dottie Barrett, Rev. Robert Albing, Rev.
Bruce W. Benson, Allan Bieber, Rev. Jason
Bryan-Wegner, Zashata Burton, Rev. Joy
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Resolution 2009-09: Resolution to Require a Two-Thirds Vote

1 WHEREAS, the 2007 Evangelical
2 Lutheran Church in America
3 (ELCA) Churchwide Assembly
4 voted “to direct the Task Force for
5 ELCA Studies on Sexuality
6 specifically to address and to make
7 recommendations to the 2009
8 Churchwide Assembly on changes
9 to any church policies that
10 preclude practicing homosexual
11 persons from the rosters of this
12 church;” and

13 WHEREAS, the Constitutional and
14 Legal Committee of the ELCA
15 Church Council recommends that
16 “any motion to come before this
17 Churchwide Assembly regarding
18 changes in this church’s current
19 policy and practice for the
20 rostering of ordained ministers,
21 diaconal ministers, associates in
22 ministry, and deaconesses shall
23 require a two-thirds vote by the
24 assembly for adoption;” and

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

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

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

45 WHEREAS, a super majority vote —
46 such as a two-thirds majority —
47 would require an overwhelming
48 majority of Churchwide Assembly
49 voting members to make such a
50 significant change to church
51 teaching and practice;

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

59 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,
60 that the Southeastern Minnesota
61 Synod Assembly ask the 2009
62 ELCA Church Council to add the
63 following provision to the rules of
64 procedure for the 2009 assembly:
65 “Any motion to come before this
66 Churchwide Assembly regarding
67 changes in this church’s current
68 policy and practice for the
69 rostering of ordained ministers,
70 diaconal ministers, associates in
71 ministry, and deaconesses shall
72 require a two-thirds vote by the
73 assembly for adoption.”

*Submitted by Rev. Dan Baker, First
Lutheran Church, Albert Lea, passed by
Blue Earth River Conference Assembly*



Resolution 2009-10: Memorial Rejecting Proposed Social Statement and Affirming Current Teaching Documents on Sexuality

1 WHEREAS, the 2009 Evangelical
2 Lutheran Church in America
3 (ELCA) Churchwide Assembly
4 will consider the adoption of
5 *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*
6 as a possible Social Statement of
7 the Evangelical Lutheran Church
8 in America; and

9 WHEREAS, “Social statements and
10 other resources on social concerns
11 build on the rich legacy of the
12 church bodies that united to form
13 the Evangelical Lutheran Church
14 in America. As a confessional
15 church with an historical sense,
16 this church continues to look to the
17 social statements of The American
18 Lutheran Church and the Lutheran
19 Church in America for guidance,
20 while it develops its own social
21 statements and further deliberates
22 on social concerns” (*Policies and
23 Procedures of the Evangelical
24 Lutheran Church in America for
25 Addressing Social Concerns*); and

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

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

47 WHEREAS, in addition to Scripture
48 and the Lutheran Confessions, the
49 current teaching of the ELCA on
50 human sexuality is guided by the
51 *ELCA Messages Sexuality: Some
52 Common Convictions* (1996) and
53 *Commercial Sexual Exploitation*
54 (2001); and by the social
55 statements of the ELCA’s
56 predecessor churches: *Sex,
57 Marriage, and Family - A Social
58 Statement of the Lutheran Church
59 in America* (1970); *Human
60 Sexuality and Sexual Behavior - A
61 Social Statement of The American
62 Lutheran Church* (1980); and
63 *Teachings and Practice on
64 Marriage, Divorce, and
65 Remarriage - A Social Statement
66 of The American Lutheran Church*
67 (1982); and



Resolution 2009-10 (cont.)

68 WHEREAS, the adoption of *Human*
 69 *Sexuality: Gift and Trust* as a
 70 Social Statement of the ELCA
 71 would replace the ELCA Message
 72 *Sexuality: Some Common*
 73 *Convictions* and the predecessor
 74 church statements with a document
 75 that some consider less helpful
 76 than its predecessor documents
 77 and distances the ELCA from
 78 Scripture and from the rich legacy
 79 of the church bodies that united to
 80 form the ELCA;

81 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,
 82 that the Southeastern Minnesota
 83 Synod Assembly thank the
 84 members of Task Force for ELCA
 85 Studies on Sexuality for their
 86 work; and

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that
 88 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod
 89 Assembly memorialize the 2009
 90 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to
 91 reject *Human Sexuality: Gift and*
 92 *Trust* as a proposed Social
 93 Statement for the Evangelical
 94 Lutheran Church in America; and

95 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that
 96 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod
 97 Assembly memorialize the 2009
 98 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to
 99 affirm the teaching of the ELCA
 100 Messages *Sexuality: Some*
 101 *Common Convictions* (1996) and
 102 *Commercial Sexual Exploitation*
 103 (2001); and

104 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that
 105 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod
 106 Assembly memorialize the 2009
 107 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to
 108 express the ELCA's intention to
 109 continue to rely on the social
 110 statements of its predecessor
 111 churches — *Sex, Marriage, and*
 112 *Family - A Social Statement of the*
 113 *Lutheran Church in America*
 114 (1970); *Human Sexuality and*
 115 *Sexual Behavior - A Social*
 116 *Statement of The American*
 117 *Lutheran Church* (1980); and
 118 *Teachings and Practice on*
 119 *Marriage, Divorce, and*
 120 *Remarriage - A Social Statement*
 121 *of The American Lutheran Church*
 122 (1982) — as historical documents
 123 expressing faithful Christian
 124 teaching on human sexuality.

*Submitted by Rev. Daniel D. Baker and
 the undersigned voting members of the
 2009 Southeastern Minnesota Synod
 Assembly:*

*Rev. Daniel D. Baker, Rev. John F. Holt,
 Paul Overgaard, Jan Overgaard, Linda
 Kraushaar, Steven Kraushaar, Rev. Chris
 Fiske, Rev. Julie Fiske, Art Ludtke, Donna
 Ludtke, Rev. Richard Steffen, Rev. Jim
 Peterson*



Resolution 2009-11: A Memorial Rejecting the Proposals in the Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policies from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality

1 WHEREAS, as Lutherans “We
2 believe, teach, and confess that the
3 only rule and guiding principle
4 according to which all teachings
5 and teachers are to be evaluated
6 and judged are the prophetic and
7 apostolic writings of the Old and
8 New Testaments alone”^[1], and

9 WHEREAS, many passages in
10 Scripture both speak, and have
11 been consistently throughout
12 history heard to speak, in a plain
13 and unambiguous voice
14 concerning marriage and the
15 exercise of human sexuality, and

16 WHEREAS, the Scriptures teach very
17 positively of God’s design for
18 marriage as reflected in the words
19 of our Lord Jesus, “Have you not
20 read that he who made them from
21 the beginning made them male and
22 female, and said, ‘For this reason a
23 man shall leave his father and
24 mother and be joined to his wife,
25 and the two shall become one
26 flesh’? So they are no longer two
27 but one flesh” (Matt. 19:4-6a
28 RSV); and

29 WHEREAS, a majority of
30 Evangelical Lutheran Church in
31 America (ELCA) members, and
32 most Christian churches - including
33 most in the Lutheran World
34 Federation – believe that marriage
35 is a lifelong covenant between one
36 man and one woman; and

37 WHEREAS, the erotic expression of
38 sexuality is understood by some to
39 be taught and celebrated in
40 Scripture as being rightly ordered
41 to be exercised within the bounds
42 of marriage; and

43 WHEREAS, Scripture is understood
44 by some to prohibit any other
45 expression of sexually erotic
46 activity outside the bounds of
47 marriage; and

48 WHEREAS, the 2009 ELCA
49 Churchwide Assembly will
50 consider the Report and
51 Recommendations on Ministry
52 Policies from the Task Force for
53 ELCA Studies on Sexuality which
54 asks the ELCA to change its
55 teaching and policy to affirm the
56 possibility of same-sex sexual
57 relationships, for pastors and other
58 rostered leaders in the ELCA; and

59 WHEREAS, a synodical or
60 congregational option on ministry
61 standards would represent a real
62 change in the teaching of our
63 church that would be seen by some
64 as forcing even those synods and
65 congregations that do not agree
66 with this change implicitly to
67 accept the notion that Scripture is
68 not clear in its teaching about
69 marriage or about homosexual
70 behavior; and



Resolution 2009-11 (cont.)

71 WHEREAS, the interdependent
72 relationship between the
73 churchwide, synod, and
74 congregation expressions of the
75 ELCA requires one Office of
76 Ministry, one roster of pastors, and
77 one set of expectations for pastors
78 and other rostered leaders
79 throughout the ELCA; and

80 WHEREAS, the ELCA currently
81 expresses its expectations of
82 pastors and other rostered leaders
83 through documents called *Vision*
84 and *Expectations*^[2] and *Definitions*
85 *Guidelines for Discipline* which
86 are intended to maintain harmony
87 with Scripture and its
88 interpretation throughout history;

89 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,
90 that the Southeastern Minnesota
91 Synod Assembly thank the
92 members of the Task Force for
93 ELCA Studies on Sexuality for
94 their work; and

95 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that
96 the Southeastern Minnesota
97 Assembly memorialize the 2009
98 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to
99 reject the proposals in the Report
100 and Recommendations on Ministry
101 Policies from the Task Force for
102 ELCA Studies on Sexuality; and

103 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that
104 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod
105 Assembly memorialize the 2009
106 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to
107 reaffirm the ELCA's current
108 standards for pastors and other
109 rostered leaders as expressed in
110 Vision and Expectations and
111 Definitions and Guidelines for
112 Discipline.

^[1] *Formula of Concord, The Epitome, I. – The Book of Concord*, Edited by Robert Kolb and Timothy J. Wengert, Fortress Press.

^[2] Especially pertinent are the lines: "Single ordained ministers are expected to live a chaste life. Married ordained ministers are expected to live in fidelity to their spouses, giving expression to sexual intimacy within a marriage relationship that is mutual, chaste, and faithful. Ordained ministers who are homosexual in their self-understanding are expected to abstain from homosexual sexual relationships."

Submitted by Rev. Daniel D. Baker and the undersigned voting members of the 2009 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly:

Rev. Daniel D. Baker, Rev. John F. Holt, Paul Overgaard, Jan Overgaard, Linda Kraushaar, Steven Kraushaar, Rev. Chris Fiske, Rev. Julie Fiske, Art Ludtke, Donna Ludtke, Rev. Richard Steffen, Rev. Jim Peterson



Resolution 2009-12: A Memorial in Support of the Social Statement on Human Sexuality and the Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policies

1 WHEREAS, the Task Force for
2 Evangelical Lutheran Church in
3 America (ELCA) Studies in
4 Sexuality has earnestly studied and
5 struggled with these matters for
6 eight years, and their work models
7 and invites mutually respectful
8 dialogue about sexuality
9 throughout this church; and

10 WHEREAS, the proposed statement
11 Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust,
12 powerfully proclaims this church's
13 teachings on trust, love, and
14 service to neighbor as the proper
15 foundation of sexuality, while
16 honestly recognizing that there is
17 no consensus regarding same-
18 gender relationships or the rostered
19 ministry of people in them; and

20 WHEREAS, the ELCA Church
21 Council, at its March 2009
22 meeting, voted by an
23 overwhelming margin to
24 recommend to the 2009
25 Churchwide Assembly the
26 proposed statement Human
27 Sexuality: Gift and Trust, its
28 implementing resolutions, and
29 Report and Recommendation on
30 Ministry Policies; and

31 WHEREAS, the Report and
32 Recommendation on Ministry
33 Policies allows a way to maintain
34 a uniform standard and process for
35 candidacy and call throughout this
36 church while respecting the bound
37 consciences of all; and

38 WHEREAS, the time has come for
39 both those in this church who
40 support publicly accountable,
41 lifelong, monogamous same-
42 gender relationships and those who
43 oppose them to join together in
44 creating a means to continue living
45 together faithfully in the midst of
46 disagreement;

47 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,
48 that the Southeastern Minnesota
49 Synod, meeting in Assembly,
50 memorialize the 2009 Churchwide
51 Assembly to adopt the proposed
52 statement, Human Sexuality: Gift
53 and Trust and its implementing
54 resolutions, as recommended by
55 the ELCA Church Council;

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that
57 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod,
58 meeting in Assembly, memorialize
59 the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to
60 adopt the four parts of the
61 proposed Report and
62 Recommendation on Ministry
63 Policies, as recommended by the
64 ELCA Church Council.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that
66 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod,
67 meeting in Assembly, memorialize
68 the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to
69 add the following to the
70 implementing resolutions of the
71 document Human Sexuality: Gift
72 and Trust
73 a. That the appropriate
74 churchwide units be directed to



Resolution 2009-12 (cont.)

- 75 develop, in consultation with
 76 those most affected, resources
 77 for congregations or faith-
 78 communities and ministers that
 79 choose to do so to support
 80 same-gender relationships by
 81 holding them publicly
 82 accountable in the exchange of
 83 promises of lifelong love and
 84 fidelity.
- 85 b. That the Vocation and
 86 Education unit be directed to
 87 develop, and the Church
 88 Council be directed to approve,
 89 procedures for the reception
 90 from another Lutheran church-
 91 body and for the expedited
 92 reinstatement to the roster or to
 93 candidacy of those whose
 94 rostering was precluded by
 95 previous policies on same-
 96 gender relationships.

*Submitted by Rev. Joy Gonnerman
 and the undersigned voting members of
 the 2009 Southeastern Minnesota Synod
 Assembly:*

*Marcia Nagel, Jim Nagel, Tom Engstrom,
 Dottie Barrett, Rev. Robert Albing, Rev.
 Bruce W. Benson, Allan Bieber, Rev. Jason
 Bryan-Wegner, Zashata Burton, Rev. Joy
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 Roger Sween*



Resolution 2009-13 was submitted after the resolution deadline.

To be considered by the Synod Assembly, the assembly must pass a motion by majority vote to place this resolution on the agenda.

Resolution 2009-13: Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minnesota Mission Fund

1 WHEREAS Lutheran Campus
2 Ministry is a crucial ministry of
3 the ELCA, providing mission
4 outreach to young adult students
5 on campuses across our land, a
6 large portion of them unchurched
7 or dechurched ; and

8 WHEREAS Lutheran Campus
9 Ministry develops critically-
10 needed leaders for church and
11 society; and

12 WHEREAS Lutheran Campus
13 Ministry provides Word and
14 Sacrament ministry, representing
15 all our congregations, on college
16 and university campuses across
17 our land; and

18 WHEREAS Lutheran Campus
19 Ministry of Minnesota is blessed
20 with a staffed (campus
21 pastor/minister) presence at each
22 of the University of Minnesota and
23 Minnesota State University system
24 schools; and

25 WHEREAS the six Minnesota synods
26 of the Evangelical Lutheran
27 Church in America, despite
28 providing generous support for
29 Lutheran Campus Ministry in
30 Minnesota, are not sustaining the
31 level of funding necessary to
32 maintain and grow these ministries
33 as they have in the past; and

34 WHEREAS Lutheran Campus
35 Ministry of Minnesota is working
36 to structure itself to invite and
37 receive additional funds to
38 supplement the support received
39 through synodically-budgeted
40 giving; and

41 WHEREAS Lutheran Campus
42 Ministry of Minnesota is seeking
43 to establish a Lutheran Campus
44 Ministry of Minnesota Mission
45 Fund as a vehicle for inviting and
46 receiving such supplemental gifts
47 from individuals, congregations,
48 auxiliaries, endowment funds and
49 other ELCA gifting sources;

50 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that
51 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod
52 approve establishment of a
53 Lutheran Campus Ministry of
54 Minnesota Mission Fund; and

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that
56 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod
57 welcome and promote, in
58 collaboration with Lutheran
59 Campus Ministry of Minnesota,
60 this Lutheran Campus Ministry of
61 Minnesota Mission Fund within
62 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.

*Submitted by the Executive Committee of
the Synod Council of the Southeastern
Minnesota Synod, ELCA, Shirley
Gangstad, Vice President*

