

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
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