

## A Memorial Concerning Human Sexuality from the Saint Paul Area Synod to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly

- 1 WHEREAS, the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality has earnestly studied and struggled with these  
2 matters for eight years, and their work models and invites mutually respectful dialogue about  
3 sexuality throughout this church; and
- 4 WHEREAS, the proposed Social Statement powerfully proclaims this church’s teachings on trust, love, and  
5 service to the neighbor as the proper foundation of sexuality, while honestly recognizing that there  
6 is no consensus regarding same-gender relationships or the rostered ministry of people in them; and  
7 WHEREAS, the ELCA Church Council, at its March 2009 meeting, voted by an overwhelming margin to  
8 recommend to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality,  
9 its implementing resolutions, and a Recommendation on Ministry Policies; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the Recommendation on Ministry Policies allows a way to maintain a uniform standard and process  
11 for candidacy and call throughout this church while respecting the bound consciences of all; and  
12 WHEREAS, the time has come for both those in this church who support publicly accountable, lifelong,  
13 monogamous same-gender relationships and those who oppose them to join together in creating a  
14 means to continue living together faithfully in the midst of disagreement; now, therefore, be it:
- 15 **3A**
- 16 RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul Area Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly  
17 to adopt the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality and its implementing resolutions, as  
18 recommended by the ELCA Church Council;
- 19 **3. B**
- 20 RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul Area Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly  
21 to adopt the four parts of the proposed Recommendation on Ministry Policies, as recommended by  
22 the ELCA Church Council.
- 23 **3. C**
- 24 RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul Area Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly  
25 to adopt the following additional implementing resolution of the Social Statement on Human  
26 Sexuality: “To direct appropriate churchwide units to develop, in consultation with those most  
27 affected, resources for congregations or faith communities and ministers that choose to do so to  
28 support same-gender relationships by holding them publicly accountable in the exchange of  
29 promises of lifelong love and fidelity.”
- 30 **3. D**
- 31 RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul Area Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly  
32 to adopt the following: “Resolved, that the Vocation and Education unit be directed to develop, and  
33 the Church Council be directed to approve, procedures for the reception from another Lutheran  
34 church-body and for the expedited reinstatement to the roster or to candidacy of those whose  
35 rostering was precluded by previous policies on same-gender relationships.”

*Adopted by the congregation council of St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran, St. Paul on April 14, 2009, and the church council of Gloria Dei Lutheran, St. Paul, on April 17, 2009.*

**The reference and counsel committee recommends that each of the four actions be considered and voted upon separately, since they address four distinct matters related to the human sexuality issues before the church. Consistent with the committee’s past practice in dealing with questions posing a change in policy, the committee sets these questions forth without recommendation, allowing the assembly to consider the questions on the merits. In adopting this resolution, these two congregations requested the withdrawal of the five resolutions addressing sexuality matters which they had submitted to the South Central Conference Assembly, which had passed them February 7, 2009. The reference and counsel committee agreed to the withdrawal.**