

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

The reference and counsel committee understands its purpose to be to assist the assembly to do its work on resolutions. To that end, the committee:

- Checks for factual accuracy;
- Reviews and edits the resolutions submitted to provide the clearest possible wording;
- Considers consistency with established churchwide and synodical actions and policies; and
- Makes recommendations to the assembly for action on proposed actions, generally as follows:
 - Recommends approval for those actions that are consistent with, support, and extend the policy and ministry directions of the church;
 - Recommends disapproval for those proposed actions that are inconsistent with practice or would inhibit the work of the church;
 - Makes no recommendation in the case of resolutions which seek to ask for change or establish new policies or directions. In these cases, the committee seeks to lay the matter before the assembly as clearly as possible, so that the assembly can make its own determination.

Resolutions before the Assembly

2009-1 Pastoral Care and Support for Lutheran-Catholic Families

2009-2 Faith Partners Network Collaborative

2009-3 A Memorial Concerning Human Sexuality

from the Saint Paul Area Synod to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly

Reference and counsel recommends that the assembly consider this memorial in four parts: 3A, 3B, 3C, and 3D. See resolution on page 20.

Amendment to Synod Bylaw S10.01.07.

The proposed change in Bylaw S10.01.07 for ratification by the Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly was presented at the 2008 synod assembly. The amendment provides ex officio advisory status on the synod council to the representative to the ELCA church council from the Saint Paul Area Synod (the addition to the bylaw is underlined.)

- S10.01.07.** Advisory members to the Synod Council shall be seated with voice, but not vote. Those members shall include:
- a. The synod representative on the regional steering committee;
 - b. Chairpersons of duly approved synod auxiliaries;
 - c. Synod assistants to the bishop;
 - d. Five members of the council of deans
 - e. Voting member of the ELCA Church Council from the Saint Paul Area Synod or , if there is no member from the Saint Paul Area Synod, the Minneapolis Area Synod.