

Resolution #1 - 2010 Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Assembly

"RESOLUTION ON FAITH AND SCIENCE"

- 1 **WHEREAS**, we believe that God is Creator, Redeemer and Living Presence as
2 revealed in the Bible, our Lutheran Confessions, our personal experiences, and the
3 natural processes of our material world; and
4
- 5 **WHEREAS**, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has a long history of
6 academic leadership in the field of Biblical studies and theological education, and
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- 8 **WHEREAS**, we believe that among God's good gifts are human minds capable of
9 critical thought and that by fully employing our gift of reason we practice the faithful
10 stewardship of that unique blessing; and be it
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- 12 **RESOLVED**, that we urge public school leaders across this country to preserve the
13 integrity of the science curriculum by affirming the teaching of the theory of
14 evolution as a core component of human knowledge; and be it further
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- 16 **RESOLVED**, that we encourage the young people in our faith communities who
17 have a passion and aptitude for science to pursue those interests with intellectual and
18 spiritual integrity recognizing that conversations in science and religion remain two
19 very different, but complementary forms for understanding truth; and be it further
20
- 21 **RESOLVED**, that we affirm our God-given curiosity through the pursuit of credible
22 science as a means by which reason can work in concert with faith to further celebrate
23 our Creator and to discover God's hidden gifts yet to be revealed; and be it further
24
- 25 **RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Washington Idaho Synod, endorse the Clergy Letter
26 Project, (see attached) and stand in solidarity with the 12,000 + pastors, rabbis,
27 theologians and a judicatories who have expressed similar affirmations.

Submitted by,
Pastor Eric Ohrtman
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Colville, WA
January 26, 2010

Resolution Passed (SA10.04.04 & SA10.04.05)

2010 Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Assembly - April 24, 2010

CLERGY LETTER PROJECT
Michael Zimmerman, Butler University
www.evolutionweekend.org

Within the community of Christian believers there are areas of dispute and disagreement, including the proper way to interpret Holy Scripture. While virtually all Christians take the Bible seriously and hold it to be authoritative in matters of faith and practice, the overwhelming majority do not read the Bible literally, as they would a science textbook. Many of the beloved stories found in the Bible – the Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah and the ark – convey timeless truths about God, human beings, and the proper relationship between Creator and creation expressed in the only form capable of transmitting these truths from generation to generation. Religious truth is of a different order from scientific truth. Its purpose is not to convey scientific information but to transform hearts.

We the undersigned, Christian clergy from many different traditions, believe that the timeless truths of the Bible and the discoveries of modern science may comfortably coexist. We believe that the theory of evolution is a foundational scientific truth, one that has stood up to rigorous scrutiny and upon which much of human knowledge and achievement rests. To reject this truth or to treat it as “one theory among others” is to deliberately embrace scientific ignorance and transmit such ignorance to our children. We believe that among God’s good gifts are human minds capable of critical thought and that the failure to fully employ this gift is a rejection of the will of our Creator. To argue that God’s loving plan of salvation for humanity precludes the full employment of the God-given faculty of reason is to attempt to limit God, an act of hubris. We urge school board members to preserve the integrity of the science curriculum by affirming the teaching of the theory of evolution as a core component of human knowledge. We ask that science remain science and that religion remain religion, two very different, but complementary, forms of truth.