

Resolution Number 4 2009 Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Assembly

"A MEMORIAL RELATING TO THE BLESSING OF COUPLES"

1 **WHEREAS**, many congregations in the ELCA count as valued members and leaders baptized
2 persons who are in a committed same-gender relationship and who desire to make public their
3 promises of love and fidelity, seek to invite God into their relationship to help in the fulfillment
4 of their promises, and long for the blessing of their church communities and the fullness of the
5 prayers, encouragement and consolation that these communities of faith provide; and

6 **WHEREAS**, a growing number of states have legally defined and recognized relationships,
7 including marriage, between two persons of the same gender and many in this church's
8 congregations are entering into such relationships; and

9 **WHEREAS**, many congregations in the ELCA yearn to provide pastoral care for the same-
10 gender couples among their members by witnessing and supporting their promises of lifelong
11 fidelity and by offering support in the name of God as they fulfill these promises; now, therefore,
12 be it

13 **RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Washington/Idaho synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the
14 2009 Churchwide Assembly to amend the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality as
15 follows:

16 1. To affirm that this church's ministry of promoting and sustaining relationships of trust, which
17 is central to healthy individual lives, families, and the functioning of a good society, is well
18 served by blessing all couples, regardless of gender, that are committed to, and publicly
19 accountable for, lifelong fidelity, love, honesty, and trust; and

20 2. To encourage couples, regardless of gender, at an appropriate stage in their relationship, to
21 commit before their faith-community to a single, equal standard of mutual fidelity, love, trust,
22 honesty, and accountability, by means of the highest form of legal recognition available in their
23 locality.

Submitted by,
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See Attached List of Additional Signers
February 25, 2009

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ADDITIONAL SIGNERS:

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ADDITIONAL SIGNERS CONTINUED:

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