

Resolution Number 6 2009 Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Assembly

**"A MEMORIAL DECLARING NO CONSENSUS BUT SUPPORTING
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE STANDARD FOR ORDINATION"**

1 **WHEREAS**, the ELCA has repeatedly welcomed gay and lesbian people into its life (including
2 resolutions of the 1991, 1995, 1999, 2005, and 2007 Churchwide Assemblies), and congregations
3 throughout the ELCA are faithfully and effectively served by qualified ministers who are in a
4 committed same-gender relationship; and

5 **WHEREAS**, a congregation that wishes to call as its minister an otherwise-qualified person in a
6 committed same-gender partnership should be permitted to do so, while at the same time a
7 congregation that does not wish to call such a minister cannot and should not be forced to do so; and

8 **WHEREAS**, 22 synods have directed the ELCA to eliminate discrimination against ministers in a
9 same-gender partnership and the congregations who call them. These synods include Grand Canyon,
10 Greater Milwaukee, Metro New York, Metro Washington DC, Metropolitan Chicago, Minneapolis
11 Area, New England, New Jersey, Northeastern Minnesota, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Northern
12 Illinois, Northwest Washington, Oregon, Rocky Mountain, Saint Paul Area, Sierra Pacific,
13 South/Central Wisconsin, Southeastern Iowa, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southwest California,
14 Southwestern Washington, Upstate New York; now, therefore, be it

15 **RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Washington/Idaho synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the
16 2009 Churchwide Assembly to direct the Church Council and other relevant entities of the
17 churchwide organization to take all steps necessary to amend policies on ministry in this church as
18 follows:

19 1. To substitute, in lieu of statements concerning "homosexual" persons, the following: "After
20 many years of study and conversation, there is at present no consensus in this church or in society
21 regarding same-gender partnerships of mutual love and fidelity. Therefore, this church takes a
22 neutral, non-discriminatory stance and neither requires nor prohibits the approval, call, or rostering of
23 otherwise-qualified persons in such a relationship"; and

24 2. To establish the expectation that ordained and rostered lay ministers in a same-gender partnership
25 uphold, in their relationship, the same standard of mutual fidelity, love, honesty, trust, and
26 accountability that this church expects of marriage relationships, and

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Washington/Idaho synod, meeting in Assembly,
28 memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to direct the Church Council and other relevant entities
29 of the churchwide organization to develop an expedited process for reinstating to the roster or to
30 candidacy those who were removed or resigned from the roster (or were denied or withdrew from
31 candidacy) solely on account of this church's preclusion of ministers in a same-gender partnership,
32 and to develop an expedited process for the reception of rostered individuals from other Christian
33 bodies whose reception was previously precluded.

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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