

Resolution: 11
Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do not pass
Action Taken: Defeated
(yes = 168, no = 227, abstain = 15)

Subject: E.L.C.A. Churchwide Constitutional Amendment
Source: Trinity Lutheran Church, Mitchell, South Dakota – Adopted 1/17/2010

WHEREAS, Chapter 12.11 of the ELCA Constitution states that the Churchwide Assembly shall be the highest legislative authority of the churchwide organization and shall deal with all matters which are necessary in pursuit of the purposes and functions of this church. The powers of the Churchwide Assembly are limited only by the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, this constitution and bylaws, and the assembly's own resolutions; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 5.01.c. of the ELCA Constitution states in part – Whenever possible, the entity most directly affected by a decision shall be the principal party responsible for decision and implementation, with the other entities facilitating and assisting. Each congregation, synod, and separately incorporated unit of the churchwide organization, as well as the churchwide organization itself, is a separate legal entity and is responsible for exercising its powers and authorities; and

WHEREAS, there are social issues that deeply affect individuals at a personal level as well as within families and congregations. These issues need to be ratified by each voting member of the E.L.C.A. and not solely by the delegates to the Churchwide Assembly; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a provision be made to allow every voting member of the E.L.C.A. voting privileges by referendum. This referendum shall be carried out by petition providing signatures from voting members representing 1% of the worshipping membership. (worshipping membership is currently 1,357,098 persons according to the E.L.C.A. web site – <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Large-Membership-Congregations/Frequently-Asked-Questions.aspx>) This provision shall be allowed on any action taken by Churchwide Assembly before going into effect. Be it enacted by the E.L.C.A. The governing body shall make suitable provisions for carrying into effect the provisions of this section: and be it further

RESOLVED, that this provision be retroactive to the last 2 Churchwide Assemblies.