

**Resolution: 6**  
**Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: No Recommendation**  
**Action Taken: Adopted**  
(yes = 251, no = 243, abstain = 10)

**Subject: Reconsider and Remove the Social Statement, “Human Sexuality: Gift & Trust”**  
**Source: Prairie Coteau, Prairie Rivers, Bear Butte Conferences, Bethel Lutheran Church, Astoria, and Highland Lutheran Church, Brandt**

**WHEREAS**, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in accordance with ELCA bylaw 12.12.01, adopted a social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” by exactly a two-thirds vote; and

**WHEREAS**, in Part IV (lines 620 – 628 in the Pre-Assembly Report) this social statement reads: The historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions have recognized marriage as a covenant between a man and a woman, reflecting Mark 10: 6–9: “But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one put asunder.” (Jesus here recalls Genesis 1:27; 2:23–24.); and

**WHEREAS**, in Part IV (lines 740 – 744, as amended, of the Pre-Assembly Report) this social statement reads: “Recognizing that this conclusion differs from the historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions, some people, though not all, in this church and within the larger Christian community, conclude that marriage is also the appropriate term to use in describing similar benefits, protection, and support for same-gender couples entering into lifelong monogamous relationships”; and

**WHEREAS**, the social statement has generated substantial disagreement and debate among faithful members of the ELCA; and

**WHEREAS**, some members of the South Dakota Synod of the ELCA believe that the social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” should be reconsidered and removed; and

**WHEREAS**, “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” expressly provides for reconsideration and removal of a Social Statement by the Churchwide Assembly following its adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, the Confession of Faith of the ELCA (Chapter 2 of the ELCA Constitution) commits the ELCA to accept the canonical Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm of our proclamation, faith and life, and to accept the confessional writings of the Lutheran Church as a true witness of the Gospel and valid interpretations of the faith of the Church; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly, expresses its conviction that the decisions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly in adopting the social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” violate the Confession of Faith, of the ELCA; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly, memorializes the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to reconsider and remove the social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns.”