

Resolution: 7
Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: No Recommendation
Action Taken: Defeated
(yes = 247, no = 256, abstain = 5)

Subject: Resolution to Rescind Actions on Ministry Policies
Source: Prairie Rivers and Bear Butte Conferences

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted resolutions on ministry policies that included a commitment to “finding ways for people in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church” [CA09.05.26] and also included a process of “structured flexibility” that would eliminate the prohibition on rostered service by individuals in such relationships while not imposing such service on any expression of this church [CA09.05.27]; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with and in order to implement the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA Church Council has amended the policy on reinstatement to the roster and has considered amendments to “Visions and Expectations,” “Definition and Guidelines for Discipline,” the “Candidacy Manual,” and other documents; and

WHEREAS, a number of members of the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America seek the rescission of the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on ministry policies and of the actions adopted by the Church Council to implement them and desire the restoration of ministry policies that authorize sexual intimacy for rostered persons only in the context of heterosexual marriage; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly memorializes the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as follows:

- (1) to rescind actions CA09.05.26 and CA09.05.27 of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly; and
- (2) to direct the appropriate churchwide units and offices to prepare, the Committee on Appeals to make, and the ELCA Church Council to approve and adopt, appropriate amendments to the policy documents, which were revised in response to those prior actions, in order to re-establish the prohibition of rostered service by non-celibate homosexual persons and to restore the requirement for rostered persons that sexual intimacy take place only in the context of heterosexual marriage.