

Resolution for Aligning Our Biblical Convictions with Organizational Practice

Preamble

Acknowledging God is in control and we seek His guidance in our endeavor, we pray:

Oh God, guide us so that our hearts would be filled with your Spirit as we consider Your purpose for Your church, _____ in _____. We recognize the fundamental challenges presented to Your Church and Kingdom by trends, actions and social norms that strike at the very purpose and existence of Your Church. We ask that our mission be strengthened by our deliberations today and in the future. We further ask that each member of this congregation be encouraged by our actions today and find the true alignment that only Your Word can provide, recognize the calling of the Spirit that can only be heard by knowing You and be moved to further commitment in Your Son's name, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Whereas, the council has determined through discussions, prayer and listening to the members of _____ that there is concerted desire to seek alignment and affiliation within a church organization which acknowledges the following purposes:

- + Affiliation that recognizes that “The Scriptures of the canonical Old and New Testament are the inspired Word of God, and the source and norm of our faith and life together.” The word “inspired” comes from the Scriptures themselves; “source and norm” come from the Lutheran Confessions. God speaks to us through these Holy Scriptures today and for generations to come. We are called to never forget the words our Lord has provided; (Deuteronomy 8:3 and Matthew 4:4). Further, we are called to learn and avoid distortion of the word of God; 2 Corinthians 4:2.
- + The Bible and therefore the Church must advocate and teach that the only place for sexual activity is within the institution of marriage, between one man and one woman joined on earth and in heaven. This is made clear in the order of creation in Genesis, and runs through the words of Jesus in Matthew 19:4, when he says “Have not you read that at the beginning God created them male and female, and said for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and cling to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” (NIV) Paul also comments on the order of creation numerous times.
- + We acknowledge and accept that we are called to love all people recognizing that Jesus died for all. We are commanded to honor our father and mother and love our neighbor as ourselves. (Matthew 19:19) For that reason we seek a church that will encourage disciples to love all among us and accept that we are all sinners as revealed by the measure of God’s law. As Lutherans, we know that our justification is grace that comes through faith and this cannot become an entitlement or earned in greater measure by some and lesser portion by others. We have all fallen short. As such, we wish to welcome all into a Christ-centered community nourished by the Spirit which flows from knowledge of the Word, as together we all seek to grow up into maturity in Christ in word and deed.

We, therefore, present the following resolution:

- Whereas, council has determined through discussions, prayer, listening to the members of _____ and through scripture (including Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; and Romans 1:18-32) that the actions of the ELCA assembly to open the rostered leadership of the ELCA to gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gendered persons living in monogamous, life-long committed relationships stands clearly opposed to God’s will as revealed in His Word. We further see these actions as conforming to the desires of the world, and

- Whereas the events of the past 25-years or more, having polarized American Lutheranism into either a loveless rigidity on the right or a secular-social Gospel on the left, has crippled our ability as a confessional body to effectively carry-out our mission in the World, North America, Texas and our community, and
- Whereas the Evangelical Synod of Texas (ELST), founded in 1851 in Houston, Texas and reestablished in 2009 seeks to serve as a model for the renewal of the Lutheran confessional movement in America as well as Texas, and we view the ministry goals of ELST and confessions to be aligned with our understanding, and
- Whereas Lutheran Coalition for Renewal (Lutheran CORE) was established for the support and growth of congregations wishing to embrace and practice a faith-life and teaching more aligned with our understanding and further recognizing that ELST has acknowledged that CORE is consistent with the teaching of Lutheran confessions,
- *Therefore be it resolved* that _____ adopt the terms of the Lutheran CORE Statement of Faith and Constitution and become a participating congregation of CORE, while remaining a member congregation of the ELCA, and
- *Be it further resolved* that _____ become a participating congregation in the re-established Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Texas, also while remaining a member congregation of the ELCA, and
- *Be it further resolved* that the congregation of _____ deploy 2010 synodical and ELCA Offerings as follows: ____% be provided to the your local synod of the ELCA, ____% of proportionate giving be diverted to local and self-directed missions where local stewardship efforts and participation is enabled by linking mission needs to gifts provided corporately, ____% of proportionate giving be directed to Lutheran CORE to aid and support the renewal efforts currently underway, and ____% be directed to ELST to aid and support the renewal effort within Texas.