

**Resolution Memorializing The 2009 Churchwide Assembly Regarding the 'Local Option' Proposal In the Recommendations of the Human Sexuality Task Force**

**Whereas** The Human Sexuality Study Task Force in its Report and Recommendations in its proposed resolutions recommends that “the ELCA make provision in its policies to eliminate the prohibition of rostered service by members who are in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous (sic), same-gender relationships...”, (lines 632-634) which many in this Church see as an unconscionable departure from the mandates of Holy Scripture, from the teachings and practices of the Church catholic, and from the teachings of the Lutheran Confessions;

**And Whereas** the Task Force also recommends The ELCA develop a process which would allow for “congregations and synods that choose to do so” (line 637) may call such people to rostered service, such that individual Synods and even individual congregations within the same synods of this Church may adopt and practice policies and procedures that are diametrically opposed to one another, regarding these very fundamental and essential issues relating to marriage, human sexuality, ordination and rostered service, which will undoubtedly cause confusion in our church and further divide us;

**And whereas** such a ‘Local Option,’ as it has been called by many in this church, if adopted by the ELCA, would undoubtedly create impractical, wasteful, needless and expensive duplication or multiplication of work as this Church would be forced at all three levels of its expression to provide that these opposing viewpoints be explained or taught in published documents, press releases, all materials published for Christian Education such as Sunday School or Vacation Bible School and in every other facet of the life and mission of the ELCA, which also cause further confusion of identity and conflict as neighboring congregations and/or synods teach and practice in opposition to one another

**And whereas** such confusion of identity, wastage of resources, and opposing teachings and practices, would greatly weaken the witness and outreach of this Church as neighboring congregations and synods practice and teach opposing ways publicly, causing confusion in those to whom this Church is seeking to witness;

**And whereas** adopting such a ‘local option’ approach in this case would set a bad precedent for the ELCA as a means of addressing future theological or social issues this church will face,

**And whereas** the adoption of such a ‘local option’ would either simply cement the divisions in this Church regarding diametrically opposed teachings about human sexuality and marriage, or lead to the continual conflict between these opposing teachings rather than resolving the conflicts,

**And whereas** our Lord, Jesus Christ, himself said “A house divided against itself cannot stand,”

**Therefore be it resolved** that the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the ELCA Memorialize the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to reject the so called “Local Option’ proposals provided for in the Task Force’s Report & Recommendation implementing resolutions, which would not resolve but only further the divisions already threatening the unity of this Church.

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The committee makes NO RECOMMENDATION.

**Resolution defeated.**