

Resolution Number 12 2009 Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Assembly

1 **“A MEMORIAL ENCOURAGING RESPECT FOR THE ‘BOUND**
2 **CONSCIENCE’ OF MEMBERS OF THE ELCA AND THE INDEFINITE**
3 **POSTPONEMENT OF CONSIDERATION OF THE SOCIAL STATEMENT**
4 **ON HUMAN SEXUALITY AND IMPLEMENTING RESOLUTIONS”**
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6 **WHEREAS**, the Task Force on Human Sexuality has determined that there are strong diverse opinions
7 on the subjects of ordination of homosexual pastors in open, committed, life-long relationships and same-
8 gender marriages; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the Task Force on Human Sexuality has determined that the testimony of Scripture and
11 reason can bind one’s conscience to either favoring or opposing the ordination of homosexual pastors in
12 open, committed, life-long relationships and to either favoring or opposing same-gender marriages; and
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14 **WHEREAS**, the Task Force on Human Sexuality has invoked the Lutheran principle of “Bound
15 Conscience” in the treatment of these subjects; and
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17 **WHEREAS**, the “Bound Conscience” of members of the ELCA favoring the ordination of homosexual
18 pastors in open, committed, life-long relationships or same-gender marriages will necessarily be violated
19 should the Social Statement on Human Sexuality and Implementing Resolutions be defeated by vote at
20 the 2009 Church wide Assembly; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the “Bound Conscience” of members of the ELCA opposing the ordination of homosexual
23 pastors in open, committed, life-long relationships or same-gender marriages will necessarily be violated
24 should the Social Statement on Human Sexuality and Implementing Resolutions be approved by vote at
25 the 2009 Church wide Assembly; and
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27 **WHEREAS**, as Luther reminds us, “It is neither safe nor right to go against conscience;” and
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29 **WHEREAS**, the heritage of the Lutheran church has been to respect “Bound Consciences” and to refrain
30 from forcing the views of some members upon other members of the church; now, therefore, be it
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32 **RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Washington/Idaho Synod, meeting in Assembly, encourage the voting
33 members of the Eastern Washington/Idaho Synod to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to carry the message
34 of respect for the “Bound Conscience” of all members of the ELCA to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly,
35 and
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37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Washington/Idaho Synod, meeting in Assembly,
38 memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to fully respect the “Bound Consciences” of the
39 membership of the church by indefinitely postponing consideration of the Social Statement on Human
40 Sexuality and Implementing Resolutions.

Submitted by,
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