

Resolution Number 3 2009 Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Assembly

**"A MEMORIAL TO ADDRESS THE SEXUALITY SOCIAL STATEMENT
REGARDING THE DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE"**

1 **WHEREAS**, many congregations in the ELCA count as valued members and leaders baptized
2 persons who are in a committed same-gender relationship and who desire to make public their
3 promises of love and fidelity, seek to invite God into their relationship to help in the fulfillment
4 of their promises, and long for the blessing of their church communities and the fullness of the
5 prayers, encouragement and consolation that these communities of faith provide; and

6 **WHEREAS**, a growing number of states have legally defined and recognized relationships,
7 including marriage, between two persons of the same gender and many in this church's
8 congregations are entering into such relationships; and

9 **WHEREAS**, many congregations in the ELCA yearn to provide pastoral care for the same-
10 gender couples among their members by witnessing and supporting their promises of lifelong
11 fidelity and by offering support in the name of God as they fulfill these promises; now, therefore,
12 be it

13 **RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Washington/Idaho Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the
14 2009 Churchwide Assembly to amend the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality as
15 follows:

16 1. To acknowledge that marriage "has been understood for much of Lutheran history as" a
17 union between a man and a woman, in lieu of statements that marriage "is" a union between a
18 man and a woman; and

19 2. To declare, in lieu of a statement about whether this church will alter the historical
20 understanding of marriage, that conscience-bound members of society and of this church no
21 longer find or practice consensus regarding whether marriage should be defined or limited by the
22 gender of the two adults involved; and

23 3. To encourage couples, regardless of gender, at an appropriate stage in their relationship, to
24 commit before their faith-community to a single, equal standard of mutual fidelity, love, trust,
25 honesty, and accountability, by means of the highest form of legal recognition available in their
26 locality.

Submitted by,
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See Attached List of Additional Signers
February 25, 2009

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ADDITIONAL SIGNERS:

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