

Resolution Number 5 2009 Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Assembly

**"A MEMORIAL SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE
STANDARD FOR ORDINATION"**

1 **WHEREAS**, the ELCA has repeatedly welcomed gay and lesbian people into its life (including
2 resolutions of the 1991, 1995, 1999, 2005, and 2007 Churchwide Assemblies), and
3 congregations throughout the ELCA are faithfully and effectively served by qualified ministers
4 who are in a committed same-gender relationship; and

5 **WHEREAS**, a congregation that wishes to call as its minister an otherwise-qualified person in a
6 committed same-gender partnership should be permitted to do so, while at the same time a
7 congregation that does not wish to call such a minister cannot and should not be forced to do so;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS**, 22 synods have directed the ELCA to eliminate discrimination against ministers in
10 a same-gender partnership and the congregations who call them. These synods include Grand
11 Canyon, Greater Milwaukee, Metro New York, Metro Washington DC, Metropolitan Chicago,
12 Minneapolis Area, New England, New Jersey, Northeastern Minnesota, Northeastern
13 Pennsylvania, Northern Illinois, Northwest Washington, Oregon, Rocky Mountain, Saint Paul
14 Area, Sierra Pacific, South/Central Wisconsin, Southeastern Iowa, Southeastern Pennsylvania,
15 Southwest California, Southwestern Washington, Upstate New York; now, therefore, be it

16 **RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Washington/Idaho synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the
17 2009 Churchwide Assembly to direct the Church Council and other relevant entities of the
18 churchwide organization to take all steps necessary to amend policies on ministry in this church
19 by substituting, in lieu of statements concerning "homosexual" persons, the expectation that
20 ordained and rostered lay ministers in a same-gender partnership uphold, in their relationship, the
21 same standard of mutual fidelity, love, honesty, trust, and accountability that this church expects
22 of marital relationships, and

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Washington/Idaho synod, meeting in
24 Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to direct the Church Council and other
25 relevant entities of the churchwide organization to develop an expedited process for reinstating
26 to the roster or to candidacy those who were removed or resigned from the roster (or were denied
27 or withdrew from candidacy) solely on account of this church's preclusion of ministers in a
28 same-gender partnership, and to develop an expedited process for the reception of rostered
29 individuals from other Christian bodies whose reception was previously precluded.

Submitted by,
Wayne Stevens,
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
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See Attached List of Additional Signers
February 25, 2009

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ADDITIONAL SIGNERS:

The Rev. Roger W. Pettenger
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Trinity Lutheran Church
Pullman, WA

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The Rev. Barbara Harrison Condon, Interim
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ADDITIONAL SIGNERS CONTINUED:

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