

## **Resolution #4**

Submitted by: United Lutheran Church, Gonvick, Minnesota

### **A Resolution in Support of Two-Thirds Majority Vote**

- 1   WHEREAS, the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted “to direct the Task Force for ELCA  
2                   Studies on Sexuality specifically to address and to make recommendations to the  
3                   2009 Churchwide Assembly on changes to any church policies that preclude  
4                   practicing homosexual persons from the rosters of this church;” and
- 5   WHEREAS, the Constitutional and Legal Committee of the ELCA Church Council  
6                   recommended that “any motion to come before this Churchwide Assembly  
7                   regarding changes in this church’s current policy and practice for the rostering of  
8                   ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry, and deaconesses  
9                   shall require a two-thirds vote by the assembly for adoption;” and
- 10   WHEREAS, the ELCA Church Council voted 19-10 to delete this provision and is  
11                   recommending rules of procedure for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly which  
12                   would require only a simple majority vote to change ELCA standards to allow  
13                   pastors and other rostered leaders to be in life-long monogamous same-gender  
14                   relationships; and
- 15   WHEREAS, a two-thirds majority vote is usually required for major decisions including the  
16                   adoption of an ELCA social statement and for amendments to the ELCA  
17                   constitution and bylaws; and
- 18   WHEREAS, a decision to change church teaching and policy to allow pastors and other  
19                   rostered leaders to be in life-long monogamous same-gender relationships holds

20 the potential to be very divisive in ELCA synods and congregations ~~and to cause~~  
21 ~~both membership and financial losses for synods and congregations~~; and

22 WHEREAS, the ELCA is seeking ways to make decisions on a consensus basis rather than by  
23 close votes; and

24 WHEREAS, a super-majority vote — such as a two-thirds majority — would require an  
25 overwhelming majority of Churchwide Assembly voting members to make such a  
26 significant change to church teaching and practice;

27 WHEREAS, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will adopt its rules for the assembly and  
28 could set a two-thirds majority for adoption of any changes to standards for  
29 pastors and other rostered leaders; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly recommends that the ELCA  
31 Churchwide Council add the following provision to the rules of procedure for the  
32 2009 DLCA Churchwide Assembly: “Any motion to come before this  
33 Churchwide Assembly regarding changes in this church’s current policy and  
34 practice for the rostering of ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, associates in  
35 ministry, and deaconesses shall require a two-thirds vote by the assembly for  
36 adoption;” and be it further

37 RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to  
38 forward this resolution to the ELCA Church Council for consideration and  
39 possible action prior to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

40 RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL: **To**  
41 **consider**

42 RECOMMENDATION OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL: \_\_\_\_\_