

Congregational Declaration Regarding the Ministry Policy Actions Taken at the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Questions: Is there a way whereby our congregation could formally register its dissent from the ministry policy actions taken at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly? How might we indicate that our congregation is not open to calling a partnered gay or lesbian person to serve as our pastor?

Response: The congregation and/or the congregational council could consider and vote upon a resolution such as the following. *(It would be important to consult with the synod bishop or a member of the synod staff regarding the best process to use in considering such a resolution—and what “status” the resolution would have in the congregation’s ongoing life, e.g. a resolution by a congregational meeting, a continuing resolution, a bylaw, etc.)*

Declaration Regarding Rostered Ministry at _____ Lutheran Church

_____ Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

_____ Lutheran Church, as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, understands that it has the right to call, or refuse to call, as a pastor or rostered lay leader any person who is on the roster of ordained ministers or lay rosters or any candidate approved for those rosters.

_____ Lutheran Church, in accordance with the 2009 Churchwide Assembly which resolved that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America "make provision in its policies to recognize the conviction of members who believe that this church should not call or roster people in a publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationship," declares that this congregation will not call a pastor or lay rostered leader who is or intends to be in such a same-gender relationship.

The following provision also could be added:

_____ Lutheran Church declares that marriages, civil unions, or blessings of persons in same gender relationships will not be performed in this church building or authorized by this congregation.