

**RESOLUTION #5**

Submitted by: Ms. Polly Hedstrom, Rev. C. Stephen Olson, Mr. Dan Persons, Mr. Eugene Rollofson, Mr. Paul Stark, Mr. Stanley Stark, Messiah Lutheran Church, Hoffman, MN.; Rev. Ronald Calvert, Osakis Lutheran Church, Osakis, MN; Rev. James Oakland, Knute Nelson Nursing Home, Alexandria, MN.

**Resolution to Require Ratification by all ELCA Congregations of Certain Churchwide Assembly Actions**

1 **WHEREAS,** voting members to the ELCA churchwide assembly are encouraged to vote as the Holy Spirit  
2 leads them, and

3 **WHEREAS,** voting members are not bound as representatives of the congregations of the conferences from  
4 which they come and are not necessarily knowledgeable of those congregations, and

5 **WHEREAS,** "This church shall seek to function as people of God through congregations, synods, and the  
6 churchwide organization, all of which shall be interdependent. Each part, while fully the church  
7 recognizes that it is not the whole church and therefore lives in a partnership relationship with the  
8 others." (ELCA Constitution, 8.11), and

9 **WHEREAS,** "The churchwide organization shall implement the extended mission of the Church, developing  
10 churchwide policies in consultation with the synods and the congregations ..." (ELCA  
11 Constitution, 8.14), and

12 **WHEREAS,** it is important for all congregations of the ELCA to feel that they share in the decision-making  
13 process of their church, therefore be it

14 **RESOLVED,** that the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA memorialize the 2011 Churchwide  
15 Assembly of the ELCA to approve the following resolution:

16

17 All changes of constitution and by-laws, social statements, and standards for ordained and rostered lay leaders  
18 that affect the congregations of the ELCA and which are passed  
19 by the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA will require ratification by ELCA congregations.

20 A. Ratification shall be conducted by the ELCA Church Council in one year's time from the last day of the prior  
21 churchwide assembly.

22 B. The same percentage majority vote required for the churchwide assembly vote shall be required within each  
23 congregation and of the total ELCA congregations for ratification.

24 C. Without ratification by the required majority of the congregations, all changes of constitution and by-laws,  
25 social statements, and ordained and lay leadership standards made by the churchwide assembly will be considered  
26 null and void.