

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION for RESOLUTION 24:01.

The Resolution Committee reports Resolution 24.01 with the recommendation to NOT ADOPT.

RATIONALE: We find that the proposed Resolution 24.01 is in conflict with our confession of faith (Synod Constitution S4.05 & S4.06, ELCA Constitution 2.05 & 2.06). Specifically, we find that the Resolution assumes an understanding of sin that is alien to the theology of the Lutheran Confessions. Our understanding of sin is found in several places, perhaps most clearly in Article 7 of the Smalcald Articles – Concerning the Keys:

“The keys are an office and authority given to the church by Christ to bind and loose sins – not only the crude and notorious sins but also the subtle, secret ones that only God knows... For it is not in our power but in God’s alone to judge which, how great, and how many sins there are.” Book of Concord, ed Robert Kolb & Timothy Wengert, Augsburg Press, 2000, p. 321

RESOLUTION 24.01 CLARIFYING QUESTION REGARDING HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS

Whereas the ELCA does not currently have a clear stance on whether homosexual relationships are considered sinful or not, and

Whereas Christians of some denominations tell our LGBTQ+ parishioners that their LGBTQ+ relationships are sinful and that they will “burn in hell for being unrepentant” and

Whereas many ELCA congregations are divided on what they believe on this issue making it very difficult for a pastor to publicly affirm that God blesses LGBTQ+ relationships without negative repercussions from their congregations and

Whereas those negative repercussions may very negatively affect a pastor’s call, even to an extent that it may end that call, and

Whereas LGBTQ couples have sometimes assumed that ELCA congregations are universally supportive of their relationships and have been devastated to find out later that a sizeable percentage of their congregation is against their relationships, especially when a congregation refuses to support their marriage, and

Whereas this then becomes spiritually dangerous in that a person may not only leave the ELCA but leave Christianity as altogether, and

Whereas the 2022 Churchwide Assembly authorized the reconsideration of several points in the social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” (HSGT) which work is underway, therefore

Resolved that the 2024 Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly, direct this resolution be forwarded to the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Council, to forward this resolution to the Church Council, with a request that it be transmitted to the Office of Presiding Bishop and the Task Force working on revisions to HS:GT, to make a clear statement on that homosexual relationships are not sinful.

*Submitted by 2024 Shetek Conference Assembly
Originally Submitted by Pastor Adam Roberts
The American Lutheran Church
Windom, MN*

As received from the Shetek Conference, Pr. Adam Roberts.

Whereas the ELCA does not have a clear stance on whether homosexual relationships are considered a sin or not,

Be it resolved that Churchwide makes a clear decision on whether homosexual relationships are a sin or not at their next churchwide assembly and be it further resolved that they change all documents to support their decision as quickly as possible.

Submitted by Pr Adam Roberts