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**MEMORIAL TO
THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD
REGARDING
AFFIRMING CURRENT ELCA POLICY AND
DECLINING TO ACCEPT RECOMMENDATION ON MINISTRY POLICY
FROM
SYNOD COUNCIL, YORK CONFERENCE, WEST CUMBERLAND CONFERENCE, LEBANON
CONFERENCE**

11 **WHEREAS**, the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted “to direct the Task Force for ELCA Studies on
12 Sexuality specifically to address and to make recommendations to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on changes
13 to any church policies that preclude practicing homosexual persons from the rosters of this church;” and
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15 **WHEREAS**, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will consider recommendations from the *Report and*
16 *Recommendations on Ministry Policies* from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality; and
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18 **WHEREAS**, the *Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policies* asks the ELCA to change its teaching and
19 policy to affirm the possibility of same-sex sexual relationships for pastors and other rostered leaders in the
20 ELCA; and
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22 **WHEREAS**, the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states: “This church
23 accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the
24 authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life” (*ELCA Constitution, 2.03*); and
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26 **WHEREAS**, many ELCA members and most Christian churches — including most churches in the Lutheran
27 World Federation — believe that Scripture is clear in its teaching about marriage and homosexual behavior; and
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29 **WHEREAS**, a synodical or congregational option on ministry standards would represent a real change in the
30 teaching of our church forcing even those synods and congregations that do not agree with this change implicitly
31 to accept the premise that Scripture is not clear in its teaching about marriage or about homosexual behavior;
32 and
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34 **WHEREAS**, the interdependent relationship between the churchwide, synodical, and congregational
35 expressions of the ELCA requires one Office of Ministry, one roster of pastors, and one set of expectations for
36 pastors and other rostered leaders throughout the ELCA; and
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38 **WHEREAS**, the ELCA currently expresses its expectations of pastors and other rostered leaders through
39 documents called *Vision and Expectations* and *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* which have served the
40 ELCA well for most of its history; therefore be it
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42 **RESOLVED**, that the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly thank the members of Task Force for ELCA
43 Studies on Sexuality for their work; and be it further
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45 **RESOLVED**, that the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide
46 Assembly to decline to accept the proposals in the *Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policies* from the
47 Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality; and be it further
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49 **RESOLVED**, that the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide
50 Assembly to reaffirm the ELCA's current standards for pastors and other rostered leaders as expressed in *Vision*
51 *and Expectations* and *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*.

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53 Adopted by the Lower Susquehanna Synod Council; April 25, 2009; United Church Center, Harrisburg
54 Adopted by the York Conference; April 26, 2009; Christ Lutheran Church, York
55 Adopted by the West Cumberland Conference; April 23, 2009; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Carlisle
56 Adopted by the Lebanon Conference; April 23, 2009; St. Luke Lutheran Church, Shaefferstown

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58 **RECOMMENDATION ON MEMORIAL 2:**

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60 **The Committee on Memorials presents MEMORIAL 2 to the Synod Assembly without recommendation.**

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62 John B. Ferra, Jr., chair
63 Thomas E. McKee, scribe
64 May 5, 2009
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Substituted