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**MEMORIAL TO
THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD
REGARDING
RECOMMENDATION ON MINISTRY POLICIES
FROM THE HARRISBURG CONFERENCE
AS EDITED BY THE MEMORIALS COMMITTEE**

9 **WHEREAS**, the Task Force for ELCA Studies in Sexuality has earnestly studied and struggled with these
10 matters for eight years, and their work models and invites mutually respectful dialogue about sexuality
11 throughout this church; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, the proposed Social Statement powerfully proclaims this church's teachings on trust, love, and
14 service to the neighbor as the proper foundation of sexuality, while honestly recognizing that there is no
15 consensus regarding same-gender relationships or the rostered ministry of people in them; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, the ELCA Church Council, at its March 2009 meeting, voted by an overwhelming margin to
18 recommend to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality, its
19 implementing resolutions, and a Recommendation on Ministry Policies; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, the Recommendation on Ministry Policies allows a way to maintain a uniform standard and
22 process for candidacy and call throughout this church while respecting the bound consciences of all; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, the time has come for both those in this church who support publicly accountable, lifelong,
25 monogamous same-gender relationships and those who oppose them to join together in creating a means to
26 continue living together faithfully in the midst of disagreement; therefore be it

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28 **RESOLVED**, that the Lower Susquehanna Synod, meeting in assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide
29 Assembly to adopt the four parts of the proposed Recommendation on Ministry Policies, as recommended by
30 the ELCA Church Council.

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32 *The memorial from the Harrisburg Conference was divided into two memorials by the Memorials Committee*
33 *because there are two distinct issues presented in the original memorial: to adopt the proposed Statement on*
34 *Human Sexuality and to adopt the four parts of the Proposed Recommendation on Ministry Policies. The*
35 *original memorial from the Harrisburg Conference is presented as documentation after Memorial 1.*

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37 **RECOMMENDATION ON MEMORIAL 3:**

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39 **The Committee on Memorials presents MEMORIAL 3 to the Synod Assembly without recommendation.**

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41 John B. Ferra, Jr., chair
42 Thomas McKee, scribe
43 May 5, 2009