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**MEMORIAL TO  
THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD  
REGARDING  
CALLING FOR A SUPER MAJORITY TO CHANGE MINISTRY POLICIES  
FROM  
THE SOUTH YORK CONFERENCE**

10 **WHEREAS**, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will consider recommendations from the *Report and*  
11 *Recommendations on Ministry Policies* from the Task Force for ELCA studies on Sexuality that affirm the  
12 possibility of publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships for pastors and other  
13 rostered leaders in the ELCA; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, the Constitutional and Legal Committee of the ELCA Church Council recommended that “any  
16 motion to come before this Churchwide Assembly regarding changes in this church’s current policy and practice  
17 for the rostering of ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry, and deaconesses shall require a  
18 two-thirds vote by the assembly for adoption;” and

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20 **WHEREAS**, the ELCA Church Council voted 19-10 to delete this provision and is recommending rules of  
21 procedure for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly which would require only a simple majority vote to change  
22 ELCA standards to allow pastors and other rostered leaders to be in publicly accountable, lifelong,  
23 monogamous, same-gender relationships; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, a two-thirds majority vote is usually required for major decisions, such as the adoption of ELCA  
26 social statements and amendments to the ELCA constitution and bylaws, so that such decisions will be accepted  
27 by the entire church as legitimate; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, a decision to change church teaching and policy to allow pastors and other rostered leaders to be  
30 in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships holds the potential to be very divisive  
31 in many ELCA synods and congregations and to cause both membership and financial losses for synods and  
32 congregations; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will adopt its rules for the assembly and could set a two-  
35 thirds majority for adoption of any changes to standards for pastors and other rostered leaders; therefore be it

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37 **RESOLVED**, that the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide  
38 Assembly to add the following provision to the rules of procedure for the assembly; “Any motion to come  
39 before this Churchwide Assembly regarding changes in this church’s current policy and practice for the  
40 rostering of ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry, and deaconesses shall require a two-  
41 thirds vote by the assembly for adoption.”

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43 Adopted by the South York Conference  
44 April 14, 2009  
45 Grace Lutheran Church, Red Lion

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47 **RECOMMENDATION ON MEMORIAL 4:**

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49 **The Committee on Memorials recommends the adoption of MEMORIAL 4.**

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51 John B. Ferra, Jr., chair  
52 Thomas McKee, scribe  
53 May 5, 2009