

Review and Revision of LGBTQ References in the Social Statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*

WHEREAS ELCA Social Statements set policy for the ELCA and guide its advocacy and work as a publicly engaged church as we participate in God’s work in the world; and

WHEREAS the Social Statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, adopted by two-thirds majority vote at Churchwide Assembly in 2009, now serves as the primary and comprehensive teaching and policy document of the ELCA on sexuality; and

WHEREAS the Social Statement states: “One reason Lutherans have engaged so deeply in education and research is that we believe God works through such means to guide us in reading Scripture and in understanding how we will live in a world of continuing complexity and change (p. 10)”;

WHEREAS it further states: “Within the last decades, this church has begun to understand and experience in new ways the need of same-gender-oriented individuals to seek relationships of lifelong companionship and commitment as well as public accountability and legal support for those commitments” (p. 18); and

WHEREAS it further states: “[T]his church must work toward greater understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity. It must seek that which is positive and life-giving while protecting from all that is harmful and destructive. . . This church commits itself to continued attention to and discernment about changing family configurations and the ways they serve to shelter and protect relationships of mutual trust” (pp. 23-24); and

WHEREAS it further states: “In ways that are still not fully understood, we develop strong gender identities at a very early age. While there is still much to be learned about the biological complexity of human beings, we have come to understand that this complexity suggests a variety of sexual orientations and gender identities” (p. 28); and

WHEREAS in the years since 2009 we have much greater awareness of the spectrum of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Greater Milwaukee Synod memorialize the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to authorize a review of the Social Statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, revising it to reflect current language, church understanding, church policy, civil law, and public acceptance of marriage of same-gender and gender non-conforming couples.