

Resolution 4 – 2014 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly
Resolution Opposing Discriminatory Legislation
Submitted by Cross of Life Lutheran Church, Brookfield

WHEREAS God created all people and sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, for the salvation of all people; and,

WHEREAS Jesus Christ, by word and by example, taught us that we should love, interact with and care for all people; and,

WHEREAS legislators in several states have proposed so-called “religious freedom” legislation which in actuality would legalize discrimination against some people; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Greater Milwaukee Synod oppose any legislation that authorizes acts of discrimination against some people in the name of religion, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Greater Milwaukee Synod continue to invite all people into our congregations and communities.

Some background

Sometimes ELCA Christians need to make clear exactly where we stand on certain issues, particularly issues with religious overtones. Legislators in several states have proposed laws that would allow people who open public establishments to refuse to serve certain groups of people. The media has dubbed such laws “religious freedom” bills, and has reported that Christians support such bills. This has led to a great deal of negative publicity about Christians.

But not all Christians support such laws. Within our Synod, we know that we ALL are sinners and that Christ mingled with ALL kinds of people and did not shun certain sinners and favor others. He explicitly commanded us in His Sermon on the Mount to love everyone, and to be like our Father in heaven, who sends the sun and rain for all people, the righteous and unrighteous alike.

Because we want the world to know that the ELCA and its congregations are inclusive organizations who do not discriminate or support the right to discriminate, we need to make a statement about these “religious freedom” bills. To that end, the Cross of Life Council has adopted the above resolution, and will be presenting it to the Greater Milwaukee Synod for action.