

The following resolutions will be brought forward by congregational members for discussion and voting at the annual meeting Sunday, January 16. This information is provided to you now for your review and consideration prior to the annual meeting:

**Resolution 2011-01**  
**Welcoming all to Faith Lutheran Church**

WHEREAS

After careful and prayerful consideration, the conscience-bound people of Faith do not share a single opinion regarding the 2009 decisions of the ELCA on the issue of homosexuality,

And WHEREAS

The mission of Faith is “people of faith, gifted by God, redeemed in Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to speak and to serve”.

Be it hereby RESOLVED

That the members of Faith will welcome all people as fellow children of God and treat them with kindness and respect. We will continue to work together to support the mission of Faith in St. Charles, Southeastern Minnesota, and throughout the world.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution will remain in effect unless removed by vote at an annual meeting of this congregation

## **Resolution 2011-02**

### **A Ministry Standard for Faith Lutheran Church**

**WHEREAS** the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) adopted a social statement on sexuality and four resolutions that approve of sexual relationships outside of marriage and direct a change in the ELCA's ministry standards to allow for people in accountable lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as ordained pastors and lay ministers; and

**WHEREAS** Christians, for the last 2000 years, have taught that homosexual behavior is immoral because of the Bible's consistent, clear proscriptions, in cultures that both approved and disapproved of homosexual behavior;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Faith Lutheran Church adopt for a standard for ministry leadership as outlined in the 1990 documents "Visions and Expectations" and "Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline" shall remain in effect for pastors, interns, and lay ministers serving this congregation (pre-2009 ELCA Assembly). (see below for standard)

S14.02 A10 In addition to the standards for ordained ministers in the current "Vision and Expectations" as adopted by the ELCA Church Council, this synod shall continue to maintain this expectation from "Vision & Expectations" (1990) in its candidacy process and in its standards for pastors and other rostered leaders: Ordained ministers, whether married or single, are expected to uphold an understanding of marriage in their public ministry as well as in private life that is biblically informed and consistent with the teachings of this synod. The expectations of this synod regarding the sexual conduct of its ordained ministers are grounded in the understanding that human sexuality is a gift from God and that ordained ministers are to live in such a way as to honor this gift. Ordained ministers are expected to reject sexual promiscuity, the manipulation of others for purposes of sexual gratification, and all attempts of sexual seduction and sexual harassment, including taking physical or emotional advantage of others. Single ordained ministers are expected to live a chaste life. Married ordained ministers are expected to live in fidelity to their spouses, giving expression to sexual intimacy within a marriage relationship that is mutual, chaste, and faithful. Ordained ministers who are homosexual in their self-understanding are expected to abstain from homosexual sexual relationships.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution will remain in effect unless removed by vote at an annual meeting of this congregation

**Resolution 2011-03**

**A Marriage Policy Regarding Homosexual Blessings or Unions for Faith Lutheran Church**

**WHEREAS** it is the desire of this congregation to support our pastors in their ministry, offering guidance and support while they serve God and this congregation; and

**WHEREAS** the pastors are required to handle difficult questions regarding marriage and same-sex blessings or unions;

**WHEREAS** scripture tells us that that “But at the beginning of creation God made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh” (Mark 10: 6-8a, NIV) giving us the foundation for Christian marriage between one man and one woman;

**WHEREAS** this congregation wishes to honor and respect this historic and traditional view of marriage; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that all pastors serving Faith Lutheran Church will decline to officiate at or bless homosexual unions or marriages; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the blessing of homosexual unions or marriages will not be performed on church property or in the name of Faith Lutheran Church.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution will remain in effect unless removed by vote at an annual meeting of this congregation.

**Resolution 2011-04**

**Evaluating Our Relationship with the ELCA**

**WHEREAS** this congregation is a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); and

**WHEREAS** the 2009 ELCA Church-wide Assembly adopted the Statement on Sexuality (Gift and Trust) which has created confusion, not clarification, concerning same gender sexual relationships; and

**WHEREAS** the Statement on Sexuality: Gift and Trust, calls us to respect one another's "bound conscience" as we disagree on these matters;

**WHEREAS** this continued disagreement over this issue within the ELCA may be harmful to the congregation and counter-productive as we seek to be faithful witnesses for Christian ministry; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this congregation continue to focus on traditional, biblically-based studies of this issue;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this congregation evaluate its continuing relationship with the ELCA; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this congregation consider its options whether or not to choose to associate with another Lutheran denomination; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the church council of this congregation appoint a committee to carry out the previous resolves and report to the congregation at a special called meeting of the congregation, if possible before the 2012 Annual Meeting.