

Resolution 6

A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS WHO DISAGREE ON SAME-GENDER RELATIONSHIPS TO CONTINUE WALKING TOGETHER AS THE SC SYNOD

WHEREAS, we the members of the Congregations of the South Carolina Synod (SC Synod) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) affirm and trust that the Holy Spirit of God does work and move in the election and sending of Congregational Voting Members to Synod Assembly; in the election and sending of Synodical Voting Members to Churchwide Assembly; and in the actions of Synodical and Churchwide Assemblies, even when we disagree with actions taken by such assemblies; and

WHEREAS, we believe that the Holy Spirit of God continues to work in, with, under, and through the ministry and mission of the members, congregations, synods, and churchwide organization of the ELCA even when we are in disagreement upon significant issues of faith and Biblical interpretation; and

WHEREAS, by the action of the August 2009 Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA has affirmed and embraced the position that faithful followers of Jesus seeking to follow the Word of God as proclaimed by the Holy Scriptures can and do hold a vast range of beliefs on same-gender relationships; and

WHEREAS, congregations of the SC Synod of the ELCA have continued to faithfully proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ despite other past disagreements over wars, societal changes, church policies, and Biblical interpretation, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we ask God to strengthen and renew in us our commitment to the many ongoing ministries of our congregations, synod, and church which proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world; and

that we commit to continue in prayer for one another; for wisdom, discernment, peace, and unity within our congregations and within our synod; and

that we commit to continue in vigorous theological and Biblical conversation about issues of faith upon which we are divided, to be conducted without rancor, anger, or insult to one another; and

that we commit to continuing together to financially support and participate in the life and mission of the SC Synod and ELCA; and

that we call upon all leaders and members to respect and honor the bound consciences of one another in regard to the issue of same-gender relationships; and

that we call upon all leaders and members to accept the decisions prayerfully made and actions purposefully taken by congregations of the Synod in regard to the issue of same-gender relationships, even when they are in disagreement with decisions and actions of other congregations; and

that we confess our brokenness and acknowledge with sadness that at times we are unable to resolve our differences in unity; and

that we give thanks to God for the faithfulness and sincerity of conviction of any members, leaders, or congregations who choose to disassociate with the SC Synod of the ELCA as a response to the August 2009 churchwide assembly votes on same-gender relationships;

that we ask God's continued blessings upon any who depart, fervently praying that some day, by God's grace, we may be reunited as reconciled children of God, brothers and sisters in mission together; and finally

that we commend our SC Synod Bishop Herman Yoos and his partners in ministry, Pastors Mel Amundson and Ginny Aebischer, for their loving and pastoral support of congregations, leaders, and members during this time of grief and brokenness.



P. Shannon Mullen – St. John's, Beaufort
Carol Peecksen – St. Paul's, Mt. Pleasant
Kathy Chartier – Good Shepherd, Columbia
Ray Mohrmann – Grace, Rock Hill
Dot Jeffcoat – Reformation, Columbia
Russ Seabright – St. Matthew's, Charleston

Chris Heavner – University, Clemson
Steve Plonk – St. Paul's, Mt. Pleasant
Ina Hoover – St. Matthew's, Charleston
Mitzie Schafer – Lutheran Family Services Carolinas
Mary Anderson – Incarnation, Columbia
Janie Blakely – Our Shepherd, Hartsville
Bill Eiwen – Reformation, Columbia
Gene Beck – St. Paul's, Mt. Pleasant
James Nichols - Christus Victor, Columbia