

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PACIFICA SYNOD COUNCIL

The following are submitted by the Synod Council  
as recommendations for assembly action.

### **Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Leaders of the Pacifica Synod**

The Pacifica Synod Council recommends to the 2009 Synod Assembly for approval a two percent (2%) increase in the Baseline Salary for Rostered Leaders (Pastors, Diaconal Ministers and Associates in Ministry) of the Pacifica Synod for the year 2009. This action would bring the current baseline salary (including salary and housing allowance) to \$56,253.

The Synod Council encourages congregations to use the Compensation Worksheets available online at [www.pacificasynod.org](http://www.pacificasynod.org).

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## Proposed Pacifica Synod Constitutional Changes for 2009 Synod Assembly

### **S9.03 NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS**

Current Language: There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of seven members who shall be appointed by the Synod Council to serve for one year effective January 1 including each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly at which elections requiring nominations from the Nominating Committee are to be held.

Proposed Revision: There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of seven members who shall be appointed by the Synod Council to serve for ~~one year effective January 1~~ **two years from the time of the appointment**, including each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly at which elections requiring nominations from the Nominating Committee are to be held.

RATIONALE: Broadens the duties of the nominating committee, more availability to identify more candidates to serve synod, better able to form relationships, etc., and reshapes the committee into a more effective resource tool for the synod.

### **S10.07.A96 SYNOD COUNCIL**

Current Language: The Synod Council (the "Council") as the Board of Directors of the Pacifica Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (the "Synod"), adopts the following Continuing Resolutions pursuant to Section S18.31 of the Pacifica Synod Constitution and California Corporations Code Section 9211 (a) (6):

Any Meeting of the Council or Executive Committee, whether regular or special (a "**Meeting**") may be held in whole or in part through the use by Council members ("**Members**") of conference telephone, electronic video screen or other communications equipment ("**Electronic Participation**"), so long as the following conditions are met:

1. Each Member taking part in the Meeting can communicate with all of the other participating Members concurrently;
2. Each Member is provided the means of taking part in all matters before the Council, including the capacity to propose, or to interpose an objection, to a specific action to be taken by the Synod (and/or the Council); and
3. The Synod's procedures for verifying the authentic participation of Members in any Meeting (the "**Procedures**") are met with respect to any such participation.
4. Each Member is first given the opportunity to participate in a regular scheduled meeting of the Council.

With respect to Electronic Participation by any Member in a Meeting, the following Procedures are hereby adopted for the Synod as part of these Continuing Resolutions:

- A. In the instance of a Member's Electronic Participation via conference telephone, electronic video screen or other communication device or system with a voice and/or video (at least in-bound to the site of the Meeting, with or without the assistance of one or more other Members physically present at the Meeting, shall be able to ascertain e.g., through voice or image recognition) the following regarding such Member's Electronic Participation:
  - i. The person attempting the Electronic Participation is a Member entitled to participate in the Meeting; and
  - ii. All statements, question, actions or votes affected through such Electronic Participation are made by the Member and not by another person not permitted to participate in the Meeting as a Member.
  
- B. In the instance of a Member's Electronic Participation via a communication device or system which lacks a voice and/or video (in-bound) element, the Secretary for the Meeting shall be able to ascertain, to the Secretary's reasonable satisfaction, that the conditions specified in the immediately preceding clauses (I) and (ii) are met (e.g.: through the use of a pre-arranged password or code phrase in the instance of clause (i) and through the use of a secure communications network in the instance of clause (ii).
  
- C. If the Secretary for the Meeting is not able to ascertain that the specified conditions regarding a Member's Electronic Participation are met, the means of communication used in the attempted Electronic Participation shall be terminated by the Secretary and the Member shall be deemed to be absent from the Meeting.

Any Member taking part in a Meeting through Electronic Participation shall be deemed to be present in person at the Meeting. (i) These Continuing Resolutions shall be and remain in effect unless and until the Council shall modify or terminate them, or applicable law shall render them void, and (ii) the adoption and text of these Continuing Resolutions shall be reported to the Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran of America.

#### **S10.07.A96 SYNOD COUNCIL**

Proposed Revision: The Synod Council (the "Council") as the Board of Directors of the Pacifica Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (the "Synod"), adopts the following Continuing Resolutions pursuant to Section S18.31 of the Pacifica Synod Constitution and California Corporations Code Section 9211 (a) (6):

Any Meeting of the Council or Executive Committee, whether regular or special (a “**Meeting**”) may be held in whole or in part through the use by Council members (“**Members**”) of conference telephone, electronic video screen or other communications equipment (“**Electronic Participation**”), so long as the following conditions outlined in **Policies of the Pacifica Synod** are met:

- ~~1. Each Member taking part in the Meeting can communicate with all of the other participating Members concurrently;~~
- ~~2. Each Member is provided the means of taking part in all matters before the Council, including the capacity to propose, or to interpose an objection, to a specific action to be taken by the Synod (and/or the Council); and~~
- ~~3. The Synod’s procedures for verifying the authentic participation of Members in any Meeting (the “**Procedures**”) are met with respect to any such participation.~~
- ~~4. Each Member is first given the opportunity to participate in a regular scheduled meeting of the Council.~~

~~With respect to Electronic Participation by any Member in a Meeting, the following Procedures are hereby adopted for the Synod as part of these Continuing Resolutions:~~

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- ~~i. The person attempting the Electronic Participation is a Member entitled to participate in the Meeting; and~~
- ~~ii. All statements, question, actions or votes affected through such Electronic Participation are made by the Member and not by another person not permitted to participate in the Meeting as a Member.~~

~~B. In the instance of a Member’s Electronic Participation via a communication device or system which lacks a voice and/or video (in-bound) element, the Secretary for the Meeting shall be able to ascertain, to the Secretary’s reasonable satisfaction, that the conditions specified in the immediately preceding clauses (i) and (ii) are met (e.g.: through the use of a pre-arranged~~

~~password or code phrase in the instance of clause (i) and through the use of a secure communications network in the instance of clause (ii).~~

~~C. If the Secretary for the Meeting is not able to ascertain that the specified conditions regarding a Member's Electronic Participation are met, the means of communication used in the attempted Electronic Participation shall be terminated by the Secretary and the Member shall be deemed to be absent from the Meeting.~~

~~Any member taking part in a Meeting through Electronic Participation shall be deemed to be present in person at the Meeting. (i) These Continuing Resolutions shall be and remain in effect unless and until the Council shall modify or terminate them, or applicable law shall render them void, and (ii) the adoption and text of these Continuing Resolutions shall be reported to the Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran of America.~~

RATIONALE: This revision does not eliminate procedural requirements. We are proposing just moving the stricken area. It is still constitutionally bound but only moving the procedures to its proper place in the Policies of the Pacifica Synod with no change in the wording.

March 14, 2009

## Recommended Constitutional Changes Regarding Conferences and Deans

### S9.04.01

- a. Members of the The Synod Bishop Nominating Task Force shall be such that it is represented by 1 clergy or 1 layperson of consist of one person from each Cconference. as recommended by each of the deans appointed by the dean and chairpersons from the conferences described in the bylaws in consultation with the conference lay leader.

### †S12.01

This synod shall establish conferences, clusters, coalitions or other area subdivisions within its territory as specified in the bylaws. The purpose of such groupings shall be to foster interdependent relationships among congregations, institutions, and synodical and churchwide units for mission purposes.

### S12.01.01

This synod shall be subdivided into ten conferences in a manner that takes into consideration local geography, proximity of churches, and other relevant factors resulting in logical groupings for the purpose of mission and administration. Three conferences shall consist of congregations in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. Three conferences shall consist of congregations in Orange County. Three conferences shall consist of congregations in San Diego and Imperial Counties. The tenth conference shall consist of the State of Hawaii. A congregation which is affiliated with this synod, but not located within the territory of this synod, shall, for all purposes, be deemed to be a part of the conference to which it is geographically closest as determined by the Synod Council. (See S3.01.02). The conferences shall be organized and function pursuant to these guidelines:

- a. The congregations, institutions, agencies affiliated with this church, and located within a particular conference, shall are encouraged to organize themselves and function pursuant to organizational guidelines prepared and adopted by the congregations, institutions, agencies within a particular conference, subject only to the requirement that said organizational guidelines shall not be inconsistent with the organizational principles governing this church and synod. The organizational guidelines adopted by a particular conference may include the creation of sub-groupings of congregations, and the sub-groupings may be designated as clusters. The organizational guidelines of the conferences shall be initially submitted to the Synod Council, and, thereafter, as they are amended to determine their consistency with the organizational principles of this church and synod.

b. The conferences ~~shall~~ are encouraged to foster mutually supportive interdependent relationships among congregations, institutions, agencies and synodical and churchwide units of this church for mission purposes. The organizational structure and activities of ~~the each~~ conferences shall ~~may vary to~~ reflect the mission orientation of ~~the each~~ conferences and take into account the unique characteristics of each conference.

c. Each conference shall, at least annually, conduct a general meeting with open to all members of all congregations within the conference. All ~~ordained ministers~~ rostered leaders under call to congregations, institutions, agencies within the conference shall be expected to attend the annual general meeting. The scheduling of the annual general meeting shall be done in consultation with the bishop, and shall include as one of its items of business a presentation by the bishop, or the bishop's representative, as well as an opportunity for attendees to communicate with the presenter.

d. Each conference ~~shall have~~ is encouraged to have an elected ~~chairperson~~ lay leader. ~~who shall be a layperson.~~ The manner in which this lay leader is identified may vary from conference to conference. The conference ~~chairperson~~ lay leader shall ~~will~~ be responsible for administering the affairs of the conference, ~~and shall~~ working closely with the dean of the conference.

e. Each conference shall have a dean who shall be an ordained minister under call on the roster of this synod with his/her ~~principle~~ principal place of ministry within the conference. After consultation with the council of deans and the conference, the dean shall be nominated by the bishop of this synod and be affirmed by the conference at its annual general meeting. The dean ~~shall be elected by the conference according to its organizational documents and~~ may serve as ~~the a~~ conference ~~clergy~~ representative on synod council. In addition to such other responsibilities as may be delegated to the dean by the conference, the role of the dean shall be agreed between the bishop and the dean and may include:

1) assist the bishop in providing pastoral care and leadership to the congregations, institutions, agencies and rostered leaders within the conference, ~~the ordained ministers within the conference, the associates in ministry, and diaconal ministers with the conference.~~

2) confer regularly with the bishop of this synod regarding the pastoral care and leadership being provided to the conference, its congregations, institutions, agencies, and its ordained ministers, its associates in ministry, and its diaconal ministers rostered leaders.

3) facilitate the interpretation of the mission and ministry of this synod and this church the ELCA to the congregations, institutions, agencies within the conference, and similarly facilitate the interpretation of the mission and ministry of the conference to this synod and the ELCA; and

4) facilitate the regular convening of groups of ordained ministers rostered leaders under call and serving in this conference, groups of active associates in ministry serving in the conference, and groups of active diaconal ministers for the purpose of peer support, working together in ministry, and continuing theological education.

### **Report to the 2009 Synod Assembly from the Council of Deans**

At the initiative of Bishop Finck, the Council of Deans devoted a significant amount of its time and energy over the past year on the reinvigoration of the role of the dean and of the conferences. With the guidance and expertise of the synod's Associate for Organizational Development, Marcelle Schaefer, the Council of Deans has been working through a process intended to give greater clarity to the role of the dean and new vitality to the ministry of the Conference.

The proposed Constitutional changes are a result of that work. These changes were approved by the Council of Deans and were submitted by the Chair of the Council of Deans to the Synod Council, who referred them to the synod's Constitution Review Committee. The Council then gave their approval to the proposed changes at their meeting in December of 2008.

With the proposed changes, we hope to accomplish two outcomes:

1. To create greater flexibility in how the deans lead their conference in common mission. *Rationale:* In an ever changing ministry environment, greater flexibility allows each dean and conference to be more responsive to their own context.
2. To replace the current practice of selecting deans by conference election with a consultative process between the conference and the bishop. *Rationale:* Since a primary role of the dean is to act as a communication link between the bishop and the conference and to assist the bishop in some aspects of the bishop's work as well as lead the conference in collaborative mission, then it is useful for the bishop and the conference to jointly identify persons best suited to fulfill the role.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pastor Tim Philips, Chair of the Council of Deans

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## **Resolutions Process and Background Information**

The resolutions\* process enables individuals or recognized groups within the synod to bring a request for action from or request for a statement to be made by the Synod Assembly, which is the Synod's highest legislative authority. The Synod Council appoints a Resolutions Committee which meets prior to the Assembly in order to review the resolutions received by the 90-day deadline for proper form, appropriateness of subject and desired action, inclusion of a plan for implementation, and elimination of duplication. The review is reported to the Synod Council and to those who submitted the resolution who may appeal the decisions of the Resolutions Committee to the Synod Council. The Resolutions Committee for this Assembly has done its preliminary work and declines to make any recommendations for action for any of these resolutions so that the Assembly as a whole may debate and decide the issues that are being presented to it. If the Secretary of the Synod receives any resolutions after the 90-day deadline, they will also be reviewed by the Resolutions Committee but will be placed on the agenda only with the consent of the Assembly. Any resolutions, which are not considered by the Assembly due to lack of time, are referred to the Synod Council for action.

\* "Memorials" are resolutions which a Synod Assembly sends to the Churchwide Assembly. Thus the first five resolutions have "memorial" in the title, since, if passed, they would be sent to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

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## Memorial to Develop Social Statement on Human Disability

WHEREAS, an estimated 54 million children and adults within the United States live with a disability; and

WHEREAS, people who live with a disability have historically faced challenges in gaining equal access to education, employment, health care and accessibility and are more likely to live in poverty than people without disabilities; and

WHEREAS, because of ignorance, fear, and the perpetuation of myths, people with disabilities and their families have been stigmatized and discriminated against in church and society; and

WHEREAS, persons who live with a disability are active members and leaders in congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, yet many congregations struggle with issues of accessibility, accommodation and welcome; and

WHEREAS, in carrying out its mission to the world, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America commits itself to, “study social issues and trends, work to discover the causes of oppression and injustice and develop of programs of ministry and advocacy to further human dignity, freedom, justice, and peace in the world” (ELCA 4.03.1); and

WHEREAS, neither the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America nor its predecessor bodies has a social statement addressing the theological and social implications of human disability; and

WHEREAS, the *Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns* states that topics for social statements shall be approved by the Churchwide Assembly and development of a social statement shall be overseen by the Church in Society unit; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to direct the Church and Society program unit to develop a social statement concerning persons with disabilities to be presented for consideration by the 2015 Churchwide Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the task force charged with the formation of this social statement pay special attention to the unique issues that face different types of disabilities, whether they be physical, sensory, psychiatric or intellectual.

Submitted by the Congregation Council of King of Kings Lutheran Church in Oceanside, Rev. James Jerpseth, Pastor

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## **Memorial for Super Majority in 2009 Churchwide Assembly's Rules of Procedure**

WHEREAS, the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted “to direct the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality specifically to address and to make recommendations to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on changes to any church policies that preclude practicing homosexual persons from the rosters of this church”; and

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

WHEREAS, the ELCA Church Council voted 19-10 to delete this provision and is recommending rules of procedure for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly which would require only a simple majority vote to change ELCA standards to allow pastors and other rostered leaders to be in same-sex sexual relationships; and

WHEREAS, a two-thirds majority vote is usually required for major decisions including the adoption of an ELCA social statement and for amendments to the ELCA constitution and bylaws; and

WHEREAS, a decision to change church teaching and policy to allow pastors and other rostered leaders to be in same-sex sexual relationships holds the potential to be very divisive in ELCA synods and congregations and to cause both membership and financial losses for synods and congregations; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA is seeking ways to make decisions on a consensus basis rather than by close votes; and

WHEREAS, a super majority vote – such as a two-thirds majority – would require an overwhelming majority of Churchwide Assembly voting members to make such a significant change to church teaching and practice;

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

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

Submitted by the Church Council and Pastors of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Irvine and by Christ Lutheran Church in Chino, Jason Fox, President.

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**Memorial to Reject Proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality and  
Affirm Current Teaching Documents on Sexuality**

WHEREAS, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will consider the adoption of *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* as a possible Social Statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

WHEREAS, “Social statements and other resources on social concerns build on the rich legacy of the church bodies that united to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As a confessional church with an historical sense, this church continues to look to the social statements of The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America for guidance, while it develops its own social statements and further deliberates on social concerns” (*Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns*); and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Confessions state: “We believe, teach, and confess that the only rule and guiding principle according to which all teachings and teachers are to be evaluated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments alone” (*Book of Concord, Formula of Concord, Epitome, Rule & Norm*); and

WHEREAS, the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states: “This church accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life” (*ELCA Constitution, 2.03*); and

WHEREAS, in addition to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, the current teaching of the ELCA on human sexuality is guided by the ELCA Messages *Sexuality: Some Common Convictions* (1996) and *Commercial Sexual Exploitation* (2001); and by the social statements of the ELCA’s predecessor churches: *Sex, Marriage, and Family - A Social Statement of the Lutheran Church in America* (1970); *Human Sexuality and Sexual Behavior - A Social Statement of The American Lutheran Church* (1980); and *Teachings and Practice on Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage - A Social Statement of The American Lutheran Church* (1982); and

WHEREAS, the adoption of *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* as a Social Statement of the ELCA would replace the ELCA Message *Sexuality: Some Common Convictions* and the predecessor church statements with a document that is less helpful than its predecessor documents and distances the ELCA from Scripture and from the rich legacy of the church bodies that united to form the ELCA; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod Assembly thank the members of Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality for their work; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to reject *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* as a proposed Social Statement for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to affirm the teaching of the ELCA Messages *Sexuality: Some Common Convictions* (1996) and *Commercial Sexual Exploitation* (2001); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to express the ELCA’s intention to continue to rely on the social statements of its predecessor churches — *Sex, Marriage, and Family - A Social Statement of the Lutheran Church in America* (1970); *Human Sexuality and Sexual Behavior - A Social Statement of The American Lutheran Church* (1980); and *Teachings and Practice on Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage - A Social Statement of The American Lutheran Church* (1982) — as historical documents expressing faithful Christian teaching on human sexuality.

Submitted by Christ Lutheran Church in Chino, Jason Fox, President

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## **Memorial to Reject Report and Recommendations for Ministry Policies**

WHEREAS, the Scriptures clearly show that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, (Rom. 3:23; Gal.3:22; 1 Jn. 1:8) and that the only salvation for humankind is through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Jo. 3:14-15; Acts 4: 12; Rom. 5:6; 1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:15); and

WHEREAS, the Scriptures require us to flee from sinful lusts (2 Tim 2:22; Rom. 6:19; 1 Cor. 15:34; Eph. 4: 20-25); and to walk in the newness of life (Rom 6:4; Rom. 8:1; Gal. 5:15; Eph 5:15); and

WHEREAS, the Scriptures clearly show that God hates all sin (Ex. 18:20; Rom. 5:12; Rom 6:23; Heb. 1:9) and has severely punished those in the past regardless of their culture (Is. 13:11; Mt. 25:46; Heb. 10:28-30); and

WHEREAS, the Scriptures clearly identify same-gender sexual activity as sin (Gen 19:1-11; Judg. 19:16-30; Lev. 18:22 and 20:13; Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 Tim. 1:8-11); and

WHEREAS, the Scriptures continue to urge against putting our own desires and traits ahead of our following Him (Is. 55:6; Mt. 6:23; Ac.17:27; Rom 13:14; Gal. 3:27; Eph. 4:24); and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has followed this understanding of Scripture throughout its history in the rostering of pastors, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, and associates in ministry as referenced most recently in its “Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline” (1989, rev. 1993) and in its “Vision and Expectations” (1990), but now has recommendations from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality that support and promote the rostering of practicing homosexual ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, in the Pacifica Synod of the ELCA, affirm the “Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline” of 1989 and 1993 and the “Vision and Expectations” of 1990 that prohibited the rostering of practicing homosexual ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we memorialize the Churchwide Assembly to reject all resolutions that lead towards rostering of practicing homosexuals.

Submitted by Frederick C. E. Gebhardt and Pastor Tom Brashers, Red Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tustin

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**Memorial to Adopt Proposed ELCA Social Statement on Human Sexuality  
and Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies**

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at its 2001 Churchwide Assembly voted to “initiate a process to develop a social statement on human sexuality”; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA at its 2007 Churchwide Assembly directed the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality "specifically to address and make recommendations to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on changes to any policies that preclude practicing homosexual persons from the rosters of this church"; and

WHEREAS, congregations, synods, and churchwide units/staff/Task Force have spent considerable time in prayer, study, and deliberation around these matters and;

WHEREAS, the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality has paid careful attention to all responses to the draft social statement on human sexuality, reviewing 2,077 response forms (58 percent online and 42 percent on paper), two reports from each of 111 synod hearings, and approximately 800 pieces of direct correspondence or statements of varying lengths; and

WHEREAS, faithful Christians are currently found in disagreement on matters of human sexuality; and

WHEREAS, faithful Christians can cherish Scripture and arrive at profoundly different conclusions regarding a host of matters, including matters of human sexuality; and

WHEREAS, the apostle Paul recognizes the challenge of the community’s struggle to understand fully and writes: “For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood” (1 Corinthians 13: 12); and

WHEREAS, the apostle Paul prays for the Christian community that the “same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5) and urges it to “do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves” and to “look not only to one’s own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Philippians 2: 3, 4); and

WHEREAS, the recommendations (re: "Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies" and "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust") before the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis on August 17-23, 2009, take into account the wide diversity of opinion within the ELCA on matters of human sexuality and recognize that, at the present time, the church is not in agreement on these matters; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod at its 2009 Assembly request Bishop Finck write a letter to the Task Force on Human Sexuality, commending it for its hard work, sensitivity to divergent opinions, and desire to maintain the unity of the ELCA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this synod memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to adopt the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality and the Report and the Recommendation on Ministry Policies; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this synod seek to continue clear and probing discussion around the challenging issues of human sexuality and what it means in our day to be an evangelical missional church, praying for God’s illumination in our discussion, civility and humility in our disagreements, and unity of Christ’s church; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Pacifica Synod urge churchwide leadership, synods, congregations, and individuals of the ELCA to lead by grace, praying that, one day, we will be of one mind in Jesus Christ and fully understand the gift of human sexuality.

Submitted by The Rev. Wilbert S. Miller of First Lutheran in San Diego with the following signatures:

The Rev. Karin Boye (*Interim, Christ-Orange*)  
The Rev. George W. Carlson (*Retired*)  
The Rev. Jonathan S. Dolittle (*Clairemont-San Diego*)  
The Rev. Timothy N. Drom (*Interim, Eden-Riverside*)  
The Rev. Noel C. Estergren (*Retired*)  
The Rev. George K.H. Falk (*Retired*)  
The Rev. M. Laurel Gray (*Retired*)  
The Rev. Michael J. Hagenow (*Clairemont-San Diego*)  
The Rev. Karla Halvorson (*San Marcos Lutheran Church*)  
The Rev. Raymond Hartzell (*Retired*)  
The Rev. Ron Hovick (*St. Mark's-Chula Vista*)  
The Rev. David P. Jorstad (*San Marcos Lutheran Church*)  
The Rev. Mark S. Knutson (*Retired*)  
The Rev. Doug Knutson-Keller (*College-San Diego*)  
The Rev. Jack E. Lindquist (*Retired*)  
The Rev. Laura A. Line (*Lemon Grove Lutheran Church*)  
The Rev. Frederick C. Lubs (*Calvary-Solana Beach*)  
The Rev. Karen LaFollette Marohn (*St. Peter's by the Sea-San Diego*)  
The Rev. George S. Johnson (*Retired*)  
The Rev. Karen S. Parker (*Retired*)  
The Rev. Harvey Peters (*Retired*)  
The Rev. William A. Radatz (*Retired*)  
The Rev. Manuel J. Retemoza (*St. Andrew-San Diego*)  
The Rev. Richard Rollefson (*Christ, Pacific Beach-San Diego*)  
The Rev. Daniel E. Roschke (*Shepherd of the Valley-La Mesa*)  
The Rev. Karla Seyb-Stockton (*Lutheran Church of the Incarnation-Poway*)  
The Rev. Robert J. Wayne (*Retired*)  
The Rev. James West (*U.S. Navy Chaplain-Naval Air Station North Island, Coronado*)

## Immigrant Detention Practices

WHEREAS, Scripture calls for hospitality and justice for aliens and strangers, as in Leviticus 19:33-34: “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”; and

WHEREAS, the “Message on Immigration” of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) calls this church “to advocate for immigration, refugee, and asylum laws that are fair and generous”; and

WHEREAS, more than 320,000 people were held in immigration detention in the United States last year at a cost of \$1.2 billion, many in county jails or privately-owned facilities sub-contracted by the federal government, costing approximately \$95 per person per day, while more humane and less costly alternatives to detention, costing as little as \$12 per person per day, have proven effective (primary source for this and the following information: Detention Watch Network - <http://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/aboutdetention>); and

WHEREAS, persons fleeing life-threatening situations in their home country and seeking safe asylum in the United States, who have committed no crime, and who are following legal procedures to apply for asylum, are nevertheless held in the harsh conditions of detention along side criminals, (estimates are that about 20% of the persons being held in the detention center in San Diego are asylum seekers) and

WHEREAS, concern over conditions in detention centers, especially inadequate access to health care, has prompted federal inquiries aimed at addressing more than 80 preventable deaths of detainees from 2003 to 2008; and

WHEREAS, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) contracts with the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), a private for-profit organization, to operate several of its detention centers, including the one in the Otay Mesa area of San Diego, and this center has received some of the most serious complaints of mistreatment and abuse of detainees; and

WHEREAS, the CCA intends to construct a replacement detention facility at its San Diego site, which would become the largest detention facility in the United States, and is attempting to evade a number of environmental protection laws and endangered species protections in this construction; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and 15 bishops of the ELCA issued a statement of concern on October 4, 2007, which expressed great concern about conditions in detention centers for immigrants and called on the U.S. government to seek “...more humane and balanced solutions to complex issues of immigration”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2009 Assembly of the Pacifica Synod, ELCA, instruct the Secretary of the Synod to forward a letter on our behalf to President Obama and to the United States Senators and members of the House of Representative representing the territory of Pacifica Synod in California and Hawaii asking them:

- To end the current over-reliance on detention as the primary tool of immigration control and enforcement and to make better use of less costly methods of monitoring those immigrants and asylum seekers who can expeditiously be determined to pose no threat to public safety or national security;
- To end needless detention by reaffirming and expanding prosecutorial discretion when determining the need to detain and when reviewing an individual’s eligibility for release;
- To affirm current efforts in Congress that aim to ensure civil and humane treatment of those held in detention so that their medical, social and legal welfare is respected and guarded;
- To undertake a thorough review of immigration policies which rely on indiscriminant incarceration of undocumented immigrants; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2009 Assembly of the Pacifica Synod, ELCA, instruct the Secretary of the Synod to forward a letter on our behalf to President Obama, to the United States Senators and members of the House of

Representative representing the territory of Pacifica Synod in California and Hawaii, to the heads of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Homeland Security, and to Governor Schwarzenegger asking:

- That the federal government and ICE exercise more transparent and responsible oversight and accountability of the treatment of detainees in facilities contracted out to CCA and other sub-contractors to assure that they are operated in accordance with ICE standards and that they honor the human and legal rights due immigrants; and
- That these leaders oppose the proposed construction of a new detention facility by CCA in Otay Mesa, given the history of CCA's mistreatment of detainees, lack of accountability, and disregard for the environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the congregations and rostered leaders of the Pacifica Synod be encouraged to communicate these concerns to their appropriate elected officials.

Submitted by Immigration/Border Concerns Ministry Team, Bill Radatz, Chair

## Book of Faith Initiative

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Churchwide Assembly has undertaken a long-term, ongoing Book of Faith Initiative that encourages and promotes fluency and heightened engagement with Scripture, the first language of our faith, but has purposefully placed the implementation of specific approaches, programs, courses and methods for local decisions; and

WHEREAS, at its 2008 Assembly, the Pacifica Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America voted to become a “Book of Faith” synod, committing itself to increasingly hear, read, study, share and become engaged by God’s written Word; and

WHEREAS, the Pacifica Synod has begun implementing the 2008 Initiative by constituting a Book of Faith Ministry Team by appointing a synod advocate and by beginning to coordinate planning and programs between Book of Faith efforts, PALLMM (Preparing Adult Lay Leaders for Mission and Ministry) programs, the Lutheran Association of Christian Educators (LACE), the Synod Council, and related organizations; and

WHEREAS, several congregations of the Pacifica Synod have themselves begun leading the way by resolving to become “Book of Faith” congregations and heightening their engagement with God’s written Word; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that all voting members of the 2009 Pacifica Synod Assembly covenant together to emphasize increasing our congregations’ engagements with Scripture through renewed and ongoing Bible reading, exploration and learning opportunities for both adult and younger learners in our congregations by

- Exploring new opportunities for reading and sharing the Scriptures--in our own congregations, in forthcoming Pacifica programs, in utilizing forthcoming Augsburg Fortress Book of Faith Initiative resources (including the new *Lutheran Study Bible*), and through participating in high quality Bible study programs consistent with Lutheran teachings
- Including Bible reading/study and/or “dwelling in the Word” efforts as an integral part of all meetings and church group functions
- Communicating and sharing our successes, together with the impact of increasing the emphasis on Holy Scripture as a part of all that we do as a church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all voting members of the 2009 Pacifica Synod Assembly commit together to encourage their own congregations to join the early leaders who have begun the synod’s engagement with the Initiative by becoming “Book of Faith” congregations ourselves; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all voting members of the 2009 Pacifica Synod Assembly commit together to encourage their congregational leaders and others to join the ELCA’s Book Of Faith “Social Network” (<http://bookoffaith.ning.com/>) and, through regular return visits and review, keep abreast of conversations and developments begun and reported there; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all voting members of the 2009 Pacifica Synod Assembly covenant together to raise up, support and equip new teachers from each of our congregations who will become capable and confident leaders of such Bible exploration and learning efforts.

Submitted by Book of Faith Ministry Team, Jake Bach, Team Leader

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## **BODY WORLDS and Respect for the Bodies of the Dead**

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches us that human beings are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) and the body is a temple for the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19); and

WHEREAS, Scripture also teaches us that we were created from dust and to dust we shall return (Genesis 3:19); and

WHEREAS, “Christians respect and honor the bodies of the dead and the places where they rest” (Order of Christian Funerals, Roman Rite); and

WHEREAS, the 18th-century poet-philosopher Giambattista Vico identifies burial of the dead as among the three characteristics, along with religion and marriage, of a civilized society, “[from] these three institutions are the origin of all civilizations and therefore they must be most devoutly guarded by all so that the world should not again become a bestial wilderness.” (*The New Science* by Giambattista Vico)

WHEREAS, unbelievers “pay their respects” to the bodies of the dead and then allow them to “rest in peace”; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego Natural History Museum is hosting an exhibition from March 5 to October 4, 2009, advertised as “Gunther von Hagen’s BODY WORLDS The Original Exhibition of Real Human Bodies”; and

WHEREAS, this exhibition displays bodies of the dead stripped of their identities, their skin flayed, their organs dissected, their genitalia exposed, posed in entertaining positions; and

WHEREAS, the use of models would suffice for general educational purposes; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 22nd Annual Pacifica Synod Assembly go on record as opposing the treatment and display of human bodies in BODY WORLDS and similar exhibitions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage the members of our congregations to avoid these exhibitions; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we encourage the clergy, diaconal ministers and lay professionals of our synod to publish this resolution, and speak as they have opportunity to promote respect for the bodies of the dead and to discourage attendance at these exhibitions.

Submitted by the Reverend Richard W. Vevia, Jr. for the Congregation Council of Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church in San Diego