MEMORIAL TO SUPPORT THE ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDED PROPOSED SOCIAL STATEMENT: *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action*

WHEREAS, social statements are social teaching documents that “equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12) by bringing into “dialogue the convictions of faith with the realities of the world and the experience of Christians living out their baptismal vocation”— and *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action* is a comprehensive, creatively-organized teaching document that will equip members and build up the church by clarifying biblical texts, utilizing scientific knowledge and human reason, and articulating Lutheran theology that speaks truth with charity; and

WHEREAS, social statements are intended to help members “discern God’s will for today,” offer moral direction on how to view an issue, foster moral conversation, and act justly as followers of Christ— and *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action* sets forth ethical thinking and evaluation by: analyzing the complex effects of patriarchy and sexism on church and society, including on women and girls of color, the LGBTQ community, and gender non-conforming people; introducing the concept of neighbor justice, intersecting forms of discrimination, and principles for creating and supporting justice; and calling the church to redress the wrongs of the past and present; and

WHEREAS, social statements are the result of extensive, participatory discussion throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and are shaped by careful listening to all quarters of this church, to society, as well as to other church bodies and ecumenical organizations— and *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action* has been a decade in the making that has consisted of: listening events in 2013, 2014, and 2015; the publication of study materials in 2014 and 2015; the production of the Church Council-approved social message “Gender-based Violence” (2015); the publishing of the study “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: Conversations Toward a Social Statement” (2016) with responses to it throughout 2017; the writing of the draft women and justice statement (2017) with responses to it as well as synodical hearings on it in 2018, including at last year’s Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly; interaction with other denominations and with the Lutheran World Federation; and review by the ELCA Conference of Bishops and Church Council; and

WHEREAS, social statements, as the ELCA’s primary social teaching documents, govern this church’s institutional life, its policies and practices, setting forth expectations for the church’s agencies and institutions, its advocacy to government and the private sector, and its ecumenical and interfaith relations— and *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action*, in response to theological convictions and social analysis, calls the ELCA to commitments within its institutional life to honor and support women and
girls “in ways more consistent with life-giving theology and faith practices,”
and to commitments in society to “seek justice in earthly relationships,
structures, and systems”;** therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod in assembly memorialize the 2019
ELCA Churchwide Assembly to adopt the recommended proposed social
statement Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action and all
implementing resolutions.

*Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing
Social Concerns, 2019.

**Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action, Short Statement, Articles 24
and 31, respectively.

Submitted by:

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