

Declaration Regarding Same Gendered Relationships and Rostered Ministry at St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Unanimously adopted by Council on 12-7-2009

WHEREAS, St. Mark's Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and

WHEREAS, the 2009 ELCA Church-wide Assembly adopted the social statement, "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" that along with the 4 resolutions on Ministry Policies allows congregations to recognize monogamous same-gender relationships and to call pastors in such relationships, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council, considers the decisions of the 2009 Church-wide Assembly in adopting the social statement "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" and the 4 Resolutions on Ministry Policies as violations of the Confession of Faith, Chapter 2 of the ELCA Constitution, and be it further

RESOLVED, that St. Mark's Lutheran Church declares that marriage is between a man and a woman. Civil unions, or blessings of persons in same gender relationships will not be performed in St. Mark's building or authorized by this congregation, and be it further

RESOLVED, that St. Marks Lutheran Church, as a congregation of the ELCA, understands that it has the right to call, or refuse to call, as a pastor or rostered lay leader any person who is on the roster of ordained ministers or lay rosters or any candidate approved for those rosters, and be it further

RESOLVED, that St. Mark's Lutheran Church, in accordance with the 2009 Church-wide Assembly which resolved that the ELCA "make provision in its policies to recognize the conviction of members who believe that this church should not call or roster people in a publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationship,"* declares that this congregation will not call a pastor or lay rostered leader who is or intends to be in such a same-gender relationship.

** Quote is taken from 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, Resolution 4, on the Recommendation of Ministry Policies which is a part of the resolution honoring differences of convictions within the ELCA.*