

## Memorials and Resolutions

Memorials and resolutions enable the Churchwide organization, congregations, conferences, and synod organizational units to address broad policy issues or issues important to God's mission in the world. *Memorials* address broad policy issues; *resolutions* have a narrower focus, requesting consideration or action by individual offices or units, or the Church Council.

**[The churchwide organization and synods of the ELCA use a process to bring forth memorials and resolutions, available at: https://www.elca.org/About/Churchwide/Office-of-the-Secretary/Memorials-and-Resolutions.](https://www.elca.org/About/Churchwide/Office-of-the-Secretary/Memorials-and-Resolutions)**

Resolutions and Memorials may come from any institution, agency, synod ministry board, coalition, or congregation, and must bear the signatures of at least five people who are members of the Southwest California Synod. Resolutions not considered by the Synod Assembly will be referred to the Synod Council for consideration.

The following three resolutions, the lists of signers, and the accompanying descriptive information were all submitted electronically to the Reference and Counsel Committee in a timely manner through a number of different email messages. The Reference and Counsel Committee ordered the submitted information for the 2021 Synod Assembly as presented here.

## **21-01 Resolution on Translation and Interpretation of Synodical Governance**

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has established a new strategic approach to the future diversity, outlined in the Future Direction 2025 document (<https://www.elca.org/future>) that the Southwest California Synod adopted as our guiding document; AND

WHEREAS, the third goal of Future Directions 2025 is a “Welcoming Church” and stresses the priority of supporting all levels of the church to understand, speak out, and act against discrimination, like the systemic discrimination of not providing language access through interpretation for our official synodical events; AND

WHEREAS, the fifth goal of Future Directions 2025 is “A well-governed, connected and sustainable church” and stresses the priority for synods to re-evaluate and change historic approaches to governance to create a culture of willing accountability. Another priority of the fifth goal is to review church structures to guarantee they meet the present and future needs of the ELCA with a focus on responsibility and how best to support congregations; AND

WHEREAS, the Southwest California Synod intentionally funds and supports worship communities that do not speak English to address the dire issue of lack of diversity in our church, and we assume responsibility to ensure full participation for all people in our worshipping communities; AND

WHEREAS, the Southwest California Synod’s constitution and bylaws require our Synod Assembly and Synod Council Meetings to function according to Robert’s Rules of Order, which requires that the presider of the meeting ensure that all voting members fully understand meetings and motions; AND

WHEREAS, the Southwest California Synod has been inconsistent in providing written translation of governing documents, meetings, and website, or have never begun efforts to allow language access of non-English speaking individuals or others experiencing disabilities as voting members; AND

WHEREAS, as synodical leaders we can fully anticipate and expect congregations and members of the synod to value diversity and join fundraising efforts for language interpretation endeavors; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Southwest California Synod identify the on-going cost of translating all website and governing documents and providing interpretation at Synod Council Meetings and Synod Assemblies, budget for the cost of language access services, to non-native speakers and create a corresponding fundraising plan; AND

RESOLVED that the Southwest California Synod provides appropriate language interpretation, including Sign Language, to ensure all voting members of the corresponding governance bodies participate in their dominant language or whichever language ensures full understanding.

Signed and submitted by the following individuals:

- 1.Rev. Joseph A. Castañeda Carrera, MPP, Pastor, Adore LA, Los Angeles
- 2.Desta Goehner, Spiritual Director, Director of Congregational Relations, California Lutheran University
- 3.Rev. Tracy Williams, Pastor Holy Redeemer Bellflower, CA
- 4.Rev. Matt Keadle, Pastor, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Los Angeles
- 5.Rev. Stephanie Jaeger, Pastor, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and Sharing Hands Deaf Ministry
- 6.Rev. Jennifer Chrien, Pastor, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Simi Valley

- 7.Rev. Marsha E. Harris, Pastor, Central Lutheran Church/Iglesia Luterana Central, Van Nuys, CA
- 8.Rev. Nancy Switzler, Pastor, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Oxnard
- 9.Rev. Scott Fritz, Pastor, Lutheran Church, Long Beach
- 10.Pastor Drew Stever, Hope Lutheran, Hollywood
11. Rev. Hazel Salazar-Davidson, California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA
- 12.Laura Salazar Krueger, Representative of the Central Coast Conference and member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Santa Maria
- 13.TEEM Pastora Jade D. Mohorko Ortiz, Redimidos, Oxnard, CA
- 14.Rev. Brian Hiortdahl, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, West Hills
- 15.Libby Denton, Candidate for Word and Sacrament, Vicar at First Lutheran Church and School, Torrance, CA
- 16.Rev Changan(John) Yu, Bethlehem Lutheran Church Chinese Ministry, San Gabriel. CA
- 17.Rev. Caleb Crainer, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA
- 18.Rev. Ryan Chaddick, American Lutheran Church, Burbank CA
- 19.Rev. Steve Herder, Ascension Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks, CA
- 20.Chelsea Kadovitz, Bethel Encino ELCA Encino, CA
- 21.Erik Goehner, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks, CA
- 22.Meredith Smith, Camp Director, El Camino Pines, Frazier Park, CA
- 23.Allison Moorman, Salem Lutheran Church, Glendale CA
- 24.Josh Moorman, Salem Lutheran Church, Glendale CA
25. Dixie Hanson, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks, CA
- 26.Rev. Brenda Bos, Southwest California Synod, Glendale, CA
- 27.Rev. Dr Marj Funk-Pihl, DEM SWCA, Glendale CA
28. Eric Renn, Adore LA, Los Angeles, CA and Bethel Encino, Encino, CA
- 29.Mary Stanford, Salem Lutheran Church, Glendale CA
- 30.Corinne DeVries, Salem Lutheran Church, Glendale, CA
- 31.Anastasia McGee, Salem Lutheran Church, Glendale, CA
32. Stephanie Zhong, Bethel Encino ELCA Encino, CA
- 33.Renee Brandt, Lutheran Church in the Foothills, La Canada CA
34. Jaffa Castañeda Carrera, Adore LA, Los Angeles CA
- 35.Rev. Megan Hunt Fryling, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Granada Hills, CA
- 36.Kendra Frank, Salem Lutheran Church, Glendale, CA
- 37.Kirstyn Bonneau, Salem Lutheran Church, Glendale, CA
38. Alicia Sadowski, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks, CA
- 39.Pastor Nikki Fielder, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Simi Valley, CA
- 40.Pastor Scott Fielder
41. Jeremy Forbing, Bethel Encino ELCA Encino, CA

**What is the financial impact of this resolution on our synod budget? If expenditures are required, what are the sources of income anticipated to accomplish the purpose of the resolution?**

The financial impact will be between 10,000- 25,000 annually, but there are plenty strategies for funding that have not been approached, including grantwriting and allowing interest congregations create a language access fund. The author and signers of the resolution are willing to work with council for fund development purposes. A small committee of the synod council and interested staff would need to meet with the individuals interested in funding this endeavor and support in appropriate strategies and partnership with council. We ask the Bishop and DEM to be staff representatives who will coordinate volunteers, but not to execute the labor.

**What are the personnel implications within our synod—or churchwide? Who will be responsible for implementation of the resolution?**

A small committee of the synod council and interested staff would need to meet with the individuals interested in funding this endeavor and support in appropriate strategies and partnership with council. We ask the Bishop and DEM to be staff representatives who will coordinate volunteers, but not to execute the labor.

**How does this resolution enhance and forward the mission of the church and our synod?**

The resolution is directly rooted, as written, in the synod's adopted strategy as outlined in Future Directions 2021, in the ELCA's Authentic Diversity Statement, and in our churches faith document to make inclusive spaces for governance and ministry that will carry us into the future of our church.

## **21-02 Candidate Forums for Future Bishop Elections**

WHEREAS, the Holy Spirit's work includes but is not limited to synod assemblies, and

WHEREAS, an informed bishop's election would include time to get to know candidates for bishop outside of a few speeches in a single weekend, and

WHEREAS, several other synods, including the Metro Chicago Synod and Northwest Washington Synod, have shared information about candidates in ways beyond a written form, including Candidate or Nominee Forums well in advance of Synod Assembly, and

WHEREAS, our Synod Constitution currently prohibits any information beyond a written form: S9.04.03 reads - "Other means of organized advocacy or of circulating information about potential nominees for the office of bishop before or during the Synod Assembly shall not be permitted.", and

WHEREAS, this prohibition is not "standard" across the ELCA and is not included in the constitutions of nearby synods, including the Rocky Mountain Synod and the Sierra Pacific Synod, and

WHEREAS, our current process privileges those who are already well-known within the synod, and

WHEREAS, the ELCA's Toolkit for Synod Bishop's Elections says "It is desirable and useful to identify and discuss what the synod is looking for in terms of leadership and the desired attributes of a bishop and to recall the commitments of

this church to raise up and support faithful, wise, and courageous leaders, including persons of color and women”, and

WHEREAS, a more open process with Candidate Forums would provide opportunities for a wider range of bishop candidates to share and have their voices heard, and

WHEREAS, a more open process with Candidate Forums would allow rostered and a much wider range of lay members beyond voting members to learn about bishop candidates and ask critical questions of bishop candidates well in advance of Synod Assembly, therefore

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod Council take the necessary steps to amend our constitution to remove line S9.04.03 "Other means of organized advocacy or of circulating information about potential nominees for the office of bishop before or during the Synod Assembly shall not be permitted." from our Synod Constitution, so that the Holy Spirit’s work will not be constricted in this way and so that we can have Candidate Forums in the future.

Signed,

Rev. Matt Keadle, St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Los Angeles  
Rev. Tracy Williams, Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bellflower  
Rev. Roderick Hines, Messiah Lutheran Church, Los Angeles  
Rev. John Miller, Ascension Lutheran Church, Another Level Ministries, LA;  
Chapel of Peace, Inglewood  
Rev. Caleb Crainer, St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, Los Angeles  
Rev. Ryan Chaddick, American Lutheran Church, Burbank  
Chelsea Kadovitz, Bethel Lutheran Church, Encino  
Rev. Joseph Castañeda Carrera MPP, Adore LA, Los Angeles

**What is the financial impact of this resolution on our synod budget? If expenditures are required, what are the sources of income anticipated to accomplish the purpose of the resolution?**

There should be no financial cost for this policy change.

**What are the personnel implications within our synod—or churchwide? Who will be responsible for implementation of the resolution?**

Synod Council will begin the necessary steps toward constitutional amendment.

**How does this resolution enhance and forward the mission of the church and our synod?**

The resolution liberates our synod to more equitably and effectively lift up leaders to lead us in mission.



## **21-03 Resolution on Support for Lutheran Retreats, Camps, and Conferences**

Whereas, Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences (LRCC) has been in faithful partnership with the congregations of the Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for more than 60 years; and,

Whereas, more lay and rostered leaders in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America discern their call to ministry at one of our Lutheran Bible camps than any other place in our church; and,

Whereas, Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences (LRCC) has faithfully followed all state and county health department guidelines, causing the Board of Directors of LRCC to close both the El Camino Pines (in the Southwest California Synod) and Luther Glen Farm (in the Pacifica Synod), beginning in March of 2020; and,

Whereas, 70% of the operating income that funds the ministry of LRCC is earned by hosting various user groups at both our Bible camps, and that the real impact of the Covid-19 pandemic closures of our local Lutheran Bible camps has resulted in over \$1,000,000 dollars in lost revenue; therefore,

Be it resolved:

That the Southwest California Synod, in assembly, calls on the congregations of the Southwest California Synod to fully support the ministry of Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences with special focus over the next few years as it recovers from the impact of of the Covid-19 pandemic by supporting the HELP Camp-aign, and thus pledging to:

- a) **Help** children, youth and adults from Southwest California congregations to attend our Lutheran Bible camps by promoting the character building programs of LRCC, and by offering campership money to prospective campers; and,
- b) **Encourage** youth and young adults from Southwest California congregations to serve as Bible camp counselors and camp volunteers; and,
- c) **Lean in** to support the financial recovery of our local Lutheran Bible camps, in such ways as: initiate a fund raising event; support LRCC through the congregation's annual budget; host a Camp Sunday and/or, encourage your congregational members to support LRCC; and,
- d) **Pray** for God's blessing on the partnership of the Southwest California congregations and Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences.

Signed,

Nate Maxwell Doherty, Ascension - Thousand Oaks

Pr. Steve Herder, Ascension - Thousand Oaks  
Denise Pulte, First – Torrance  
Jeanne Sinsheimer, First - Torrance  
Pr. Bill Hurst, First - Torrance  
Desta Goehner, Holy Trinity - Thousand Oaks  
Pr. Erik Goehner, Holy Trinity - Thousand Oaks  
Meredith Smith, Mt. Cross - Camarillo  
Scott Smith, Mt. Cross - Camarillo  
Marilyn Gardner, Mt. Cross - Camarillo  
Richard Gardner, Mt. Cross - Camarillo  
Elaine Hente, Grace - Culver City  
Monica Holman, Mt. Carmel - San Luis Obispo  
Lisa Lambert, Shepherd of the Valley - West Hills  
Sandi Engh, Shepherd of the Valley - West Hills  
Pr. Scott Fielder, New Hope - Agoura  
Scott Odahl, Salem - Glendale

**What is the financial impact of this resolution on our synod budget? If expenditures are required, what are the sources of income anticipated to accomplish the purpose of the resolution?**

This resolution requires no expenditures from the synod budget.

**What are the personnel implications within our synod—or churchwide? Who will be responsible for implementation of the resolution?**

This resolution carries no explicit personnel expenditures from the staff of either the Southwest California Synod or the churchwide staff. The implementation of the resolution falls to the staff and volunteers of Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences (LRCC), and the willing participation of the people of the synod.

**How does this resolution enhance and forward the mission of the church and our synod?**

This resolution calls on the congregations and people of the Southwest California Synod to assist in the financial recovery of our local Lutheran Bible camps after the Covid-19 pandemic. The relevance of a vital Bible camping ministry is obvious to most ELCA Lutherans, but the case needs to be made anew to each generation. By helping LRCC financially recover from the pandemic, the Southwest California Synod will benefit by:

- a) Having two theologically sympathetic camps to send children for Christian education and recreation;
- b) Providing a camp that hires dozens of young adults annually to be camp counselors and year round staff;
- c) Being in partnership with two camps that host dozens of congregations for family retreats and adult recreation;
- d) Advancing the evangelical mission of the ELCA.