RESOLUTION 2018:3

Resolution to the ELCA Church Council on the ELCA’s 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women

Whereas in 1970 both the Lutheran Church in America and American Lutheran Church in their national conventions voted to ordain women; and

Whereas the ELCA rejoices in these actions of its predecessor church bodies and will recognize the 50th anniversary in 2020 of the ordination of women; and

Whereas we express our profound gratitude for the many and varied ways the gifts of ordained women have advanced God’s mission through this church; and

Whereas we learned in the research related to the 45th anniversary of women’s ordination of some progress but also significant disparities for women in the areas of preparation for ministry, all calls including first calls, mobility, compensation, ministry roles, and debt following seminary education (http://search.elca.org/Pages/Results.aspx?k=45th+anniversary+of+women%27s+ordination); and

Whereas the same research uncovered denigrating and discriminatory experiences of many ordained women, some particularly acute for ordained women of color; and

Whereas the church is called to reflect in church and society its roles of advocate and model for the respect, dignity, and equal rights due all women, including the ordained women of this church; and

Whereas this church is simultaneously addressing justice and women in its social statement under consideration and the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women; therefore be it

Resolved that we call upon our seminaries, colleges, campus ministries, outdoor ministries, social ministry organizations, synods, and congregations to highlight women preachers, teachers and speakers throughout 2020 in recognition of the diversity of gifts women’s ordination has brought to our church; and be it further

Resolved that we call upon our seminaries to include intentional coursework and resources to equip pastoral leaders in identifying and ministering in situations of gender-based discrimination and violence; and be it further

Resolved that we call upon the churchwide expression’s Domestic Mission Unit to develop, undertake, and successfully complete a strategy specifically related to the debt of women of color after seminary within the overall issue of debt after seminary; and be it further

Resolved that we call upon all candidacy committees to examine their practices in light of the findings in the 45th anniversary research; and be it further
Resolved that we request the Office of the Presiding Bishop to provide in 2025 updated research on achievement of these initiatives and other matters pertinent to the full and just participation of ordained women in this church; and be it further

Resolved that we request all church publications to plan features in 2020 on the ordination of women, lifting up the amazing talents and gifts this church has received from its ordained women, the barriers ordained women still experience in this church, and the steps outlined in this memorial to overcome these barriers; and be it further

Resolved that the Nebraska Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council’s Executive Committee for referral and disposition to the appropriate unit or office of the churchwide organization in accordance with the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church.

Submitted by:
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Our Savior's
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RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE OF THE NEBRASKA SYNOD COUNCIL: That Resolution 2018:3 is appropriate for the Assembly to discuss and take action upon.