



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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Resolution Number 2019-002

Date Submitted: May 1, 2019

Sponsor: Congregation Council, Luther Place Memorial Church, Washington D.C.

Title: ***Vision and Expectations - Trustworthy Servants***

WHEREAS, the document *Vision and Expectations* (V&E) has outlined standards of behavior for rostered ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) since 1990, including the prohibition of publicly out and partnered LGBTQIA people from seeking and attaining positions of public ministry within the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted a social statement on human sexuality that affirmed human sexuality is a gift from God and V&E was subsequently updated to be inclusive of “lifelong, monogamous, same-gendered relationships”; and

WHEREAS, civil same-sex marriage became legal nationwide in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Domestic Mission Unit (DMU) of the ELCA began a process in 2018 to further update V&E as a result of roster consolidation and to reflect legal same-sex civil marriage nationwide resulting in a draft document entitled *Trustworthy Servants of the People of God* (TS); and

WHEREAS, due in part to the fact that this draft document was only available for public comment for ten days, the ELCA Church Council at its meeting on April 6, 2019 voted “to decline to consider” TS and referred it back to the DMU for further study and revision, to bring a replacement document for V&E to be considered by the ELCA Church Council in the fall of 2020; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to acknowledge the ways *Visions and Expectations* (V&E) has been used to disqualify LGBTQIA people from rostered leadership and has perpetuated a culture of shame and secrecy regarding human sexuality and repent for the pain and harm it has caused by directing the Domestic Missions Unit (DMU) of the ELCA to take the following actions in preparing a successor document to V&E for consideration by the ELCA Church Council:



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- establish and promptly disclose a process to intentionally engage LGBTQIA rostered ministers and lay people in the further development of a replacement document to V&E; and
- make the draft replacement document to V&E open to comments by rostered ministers, members of the church, and other interested parties for no fewer than 60 days; and to provide a means for such comments to be offered anonymously if so desired by a commenter; and
- submit a written report to the Church Council that documents their consideration of the ELCA's social teachings and the process by which it was determined which teachings should be elevated into expectations for rostered ministers, including justifications for expectations in the draft successor document which were not previously part of V&E and the rationale for decisions that omit expectations previously part of V&E; and
- reaffirm in the draft successor document the expectations of V&E for rostered ministers "to be committed to justice in the life of the church, society, and in the world" and "to acknowledge the church's past and present failures and to lead the church in its repentance and renewal."