

(Used by Faith Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, MN)

Termination of Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Whereas the Christian faith is centered in God's Word, revealed in Jesus Christ and recorded in the inspired writings of the Bible (I Timothy 3:16, Romans 10:17, John 14:6, 17:17, etc.); and,

Whereas the Lutheran Confessions declare that, "We believe, teach and confess that the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments are the only source and norm according to which all doctrines and teachers alike must be appraised and judged." (Epitome, *Formula of Concord*); and,

Whereas the constitution of Faith Lutheran Church states that "this congregation accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life" (C2.05); and,

Whereas the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has been drifting theologically from its beginning, affecting areas as diverse as worship, inter-church relations, mission and evangelism, Christology, ordination and the office of ministry, and the proper role of bishops; and

Whereas Faith Lutheran Church has provided significant leadership for over a decade in trying to reform the ELCA and return it to sounder theological footing; and

Whereas the continued drift of the ELCA has already resulted in a significantly attenuated relationship with Faith Lutheran Church; and

Whereas the ELCA at its 2009 churchwide assembly approved a social statement (*Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*) and revised ministry policies that contradict the clear and unanimous witness of the Bible and the consensus teaching of the Christian Church; and

Whereas the ELCA, in these decisions, declared for the first time officially that irreconcilable readings of the Bible and understandings of the faith are equally valid, a position called heterodoxy that has been rejected by the Christian Church throughout its history; and,

Whereas Faith Lutheran Church desires to do cooperative mission with other churches in a context of strong Lutheran theological integrity; therefore,

Be it resolved that Faith Lutheran Church begin the process to terminate its membership in the ELCA and retain membership in Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ only.