

(Used by Faith Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, MN)

Brief history of Faith Lutheran's (FLC) relationship with the ELCA:

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| 1988 | ELCA formed – governance and representation issues noted early on |
| 1991 | Study on Ministry – laid groundwork for 1997 Concordat (Episcopal agreement defeated) and 1999 Called to Common Mission –CCM (revised Episcopal agreement passed) |
| 1993 | Social Statement on Human Sexuality – largely rejected by congregations throughout the ELCA – revised version passed in 2009 |
| 1997 | Concordat (Episcopal agreement) defeated. FLC held adult forums led by G. Barry Anderson |
| 1999 | CCM – passed. FLC adult forums continued. FLC joined the work of a new emerging movement called WordAlone. |
| 2001 | ELCA By-law Amendment for CCM – allowed pastoral ordination without a bishop. FLC joined LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) and began to re-distribute mission funds from the ELCA to Faith on Grove, India, Hope Center, etc. Pastor Christine Olson tests by-law amendment with disastrous results. |
| 2003 | Bishop Mark Hansen Elected – under his leadership, we noted a further theological drift in a number of areas including: * ELCA mission – evangelism to “accompaniment”. FLC forms New Hope Mission Society; further work of Hope Center * New Hymnal – FLC did not purchase on theological grounds; FLC expanded worship service options and styles |
| 2005 | FLC supports Word Alone House of Studies (now ILT - Institute of Lutheran Theology) and Lutheran CORE (Coalition for Reform) |
| 2009 | ELCA adopted sexuality statement – Faith’s Church Council recommends congregation join Augustana District of the LCMC; Council recommends Special Meeting to vote on terminate membership in the ELCA |

(Proposed Resolution to terminate from the ELCA on back)

Proposed RESOLUTION:

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 (LCMC).