



Recommendation: Archiving of Certain Social Policy Resolutions

In accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018), the Church Council may vote to archive social messages. Likewise, social policy resolutions may be archived by action of the Churchwide Assembly.

Social policy resolutions serve as this church’s policy directives until they are a) replaced by subsequent resolutions, b) rendered moot by subsequent social teaching documents, or c) sent to archive by a Churchwide Assembly. A review for relevance shall be initiated 25 years after adoption. Social policy resolutions are adopted in a particular social context, and this planned review of their continued relevance enables subsequent generations of church leaders to consider whether a resolution should continue to represent the policy of this church.

The director for theological ethics has compiled all resolutions that are now 25 years or older and recommended which of those should be archived in the category of historical documents. This compilation was shared with a variety of groups for review over a three-month period. The Conference of Bishops reviewed the list at its spring 2022 meeting, and it was then presented for consideration at the spring 2022 Church Council meeting. The Church Council voted to recommend that the assembly archive these documents.

Recommended for assembly action:

To archive the social policy resolutions identified in the “2022 Archiving of Certain Social Policy Resolutions” document, in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).

From ELCA Policies and Procedures for Addressing Social Concerns (2018), p. 25

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Review procedure:

...2. The director for theological ethics shall bring a recommendation to the Church Council regarding which resolutions should remain in force and those that should be archived in the category of historical documents.

The recommendation should be guided by comments from those consulted and the following criteria:

- Relevance to the ELCA’s contemporary mission.
- Continued significance for society.
- Congruence with ELCA social teaching.”

Key: SPR= social policy resolution; sm = social message; ss = social statement; h.rts = human rights

<i>Soc Policy Resltn</i>	<i>Yr</i>	<i>Archive?</i>	<i>Notes for decision</i>	<i>Description</i>
Abortion	1995	Y	no relevant directives	expresses thanks and concurs with report of Work Group on Abortion and the Medical Plan, requests educational materials from Portico
Abortion	1997	Y	no relevant directives	encourages continuing moral deliberation; requests Portico to provide education about the Abortion Insurance SPR 1997
African Development Foundation	1995	Y	was focused on actions now past	encourages members to contact U.S. senators to urge restoration of the 1995 funding for African Development Fund & Development Foundation for Africa
Campaign Jubilee	1997	Y	Archive, was focused on actions now past	refers the matter of ELCA participation in Jubilee 2000 to DCS and directs development of a report and recommendation for CC’s action
Care of Creation	1995	Y	concerns expressed in ss Caring for Creation	calls congregations to prayer & to at least one activity of public witness for ecology; further, calls upon CWO to assist in implementing ss Caring for Creation
Fair Labor Employment	1997	Y	ss Human Sexuality supplants	supports Employment Non-Discrimination Act and affirms advocacy in support of laws barring discrimination due to sexual orientation
Guatemala	1995	Y	social context dramatically changed	encourages whole ELCA to support Guatemalan peace process and Verification of human rights & urges full public disclosure of U.S. complicity in h.rts. violation
US Army School	1995	Y	changed practices	calls on U.S. to eliminate funding for Army School of Americas and urges members to contact legislators in support of this stance
Welcoming G&L People	1995	Y	ss Human Sexuality supplants	affirms 1991 Churchwide Assembly, that “gay and lesbian people, as individuals created by God, are welcome to participate fully in the life of the congregations”