



July 28 – August 2  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA



## 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all resolutions that are now 25 years old or older and recommended which of these should be archived in the category of historical documents. This compilation was shared with a variety of groups for review. The Conference of Bishops reviewed the list at its spring 2025 meeting, and it was then presented for consideration at the spring 2025 Church Council meeting. The Church Council voted to recommend that the assembly archive these documents [CC25.04.24f].

Recommended for assembly action:

**To archive the social policy resolutions identified in the “2025 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), pp. 26–27**

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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Church Council regarding which resolutions should remain in force and those that should be archived in the category of historical documents.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.”

<i>Soc. Pol. Res. with link</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Notes for decision</i>	<i>Description</i>
<a href="#">Birmingham Pledge</a>	2001	CA01.02.07	refers to outdated pledge (originating org. is closed)	endorses “Birmingham Pledge” for individuals
<a href="#">Boycott South Carolina</a>	1999	CA99.06.31	refers to action related to a specific event in 2000	affirms moving spring 2000 Conference of Bishops meeting out of South Carolina due to confederate flag flying over the capitol
<a href="#">Church Jordan Palestine</a>	2001	CC01.04.22	superseded by subsequent social teachings, including CA05.06.23, CA09.06.36, CA16.05.15, CA16.06.31, and CA13.06.27	requests presiding bishop to send letter to then-President Bush expressing solidarity with Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and Palestine; encourages participation in ecumenical prayer vigil and calls for attention to conflict in Middle East at synod assemblies
<a href="#">Commercial Sexual Exploitation</a>	2001	CC01.11.101	superseded by social message on same topic	directs development of educational resources on commercial sexual exploitation; requests corporate social responsibility review of investment screen for pornography
<a href="#">D.C. Congressional Voting</a>	2001	CA01.07.62	superseded by CA.22.01.05c on advocating for D.C. statehood	affirms ELCA support for full voting rights for D.C. residents
<a href="#">Economic Justice</a>	1999	CA99.06.44	superseded by social statement on economic justice	acknowledges adoption of social statement
<a href="#">Economic Sanctions against Iraq and Cuba</a>	2001	CA01.06.37	refers to specific, timebound legislation; Cuba embargo already addressed more thoroughly in CA95.07.63 (social policy resolution on advocacy related to Cuba)	calls for end to economic sanctions against Iraq and prayer for Iraqi people; reaffirms ELCA’s opposition to U.S. embargo on Cuba

<a href="#">Education Materials Homosexuality</a>	1999	CA99.06.57	focused on support for outdated educational resource	acknowledges publication of outdated resource “Talking Together as Christians about Homosexuality”
<a href="#">Farmers in Crisis</a>	1998	CC98.11.56	refers to specific, timely crisis in late 1990s	calls for attention to rural communities and farms in light of agricultural crises of mid to late 1990s
<a href="#">Foot Mouth Disease</a>	2001	CA01.07.79	refers to past disease outbreak	calls for prayer and networked response to outbreaks
<a href="#">Global Warming</a>	2001	CA01.07.57	superseded by “Earth’s Climate Crisis” social message	affirms social statement on caring for creation
<a href="#">Healthcare Policy</a>	2001	CA01.02.08	superseded by health care social statement	encourages study related to development of social statement on health
<a href="#">Independent Sports League</a>	1999	CA99.06.59	refers to specific, timebound concern	affirms concern about scheduling conflicts between recreational activities and church activities; requests educational materials
<a href="#">Jubilee 2000 Campaign</a>	1999	CA99.03.06	superseded by social policy resolution on Jubilee 2000 CC24.11.20bb	affirms concern for international debt and expresses support for Jubilee 2000: USA campaign promoting advocacy on international debt
<a href="#">Older Adult Ministry</a>	1999	CA99.03.10	refers to specific, timebound year of commemoration; superseded by 2001 social policy resolution	affirms celebration of International Year of Older Persons (1999) and encourages development of ministry resources focused on and inclusive of older adults
<a href="#">Ordination of Gay and Lesbian Persons</a>	2001	CA01.06.36	out-of-date; requests actions that were taken after 2009	requests timeline for decision on rostering of homosexual persons
<a href="#">Ordination of Noncelibate Gay and Lesbian Persons</a>	1999	CA99.06.27	superseded by 2009 Churchwide Assembly action to change ministry policies	declines to propose change to ministry requirements at the time; affirms welcome to gay and lesbian people to participate fully in the life of this church; acknowledges need for continuing discernment
<a href="#">Peace</a>	2001	CA01.07.60	refers to timebound “Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence” (2001–2010)	acknowledges ELCA efforts toward participation in “Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence”
<a href="#">Peace Nonviolence</a>	1999	CA99.06.40	refers to actions specific to “Decade for a Culture of Nonviolence” (2001–2010)	affirms support for “Decade for a Culture of Nonviolence” (2001–2010); requests reports in response to “Decade”

<a href="#"><u>Persecution of Christians</u></a>	1999	CA99.03.07	superseded by CA03.06.40 Support Persecuted Churches	calls for respect, tolerance, and understanding of other faiths; calls for study of religious persecution and religious freedom; calls for advocacy for victims of religious persecution
<a href="#"><u>Response to St Paul “Visions and Expectations Resolution</u></a>	2000	CC00.11.67	superseded by <i>Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust</i> social statement	declines request to amend “Visions and Expectations”
<a href="#"><u>School Voucher Proposals</u></a>	2001	CA01.06.26	superseded by <i>Our Calling in Education</i> social statement (2007); all evaluation criteria herein are listed in social statement	provides criteria for evaluating school voucher proposals
<a href="#"><u>School Vouchers</u></a>	2000	CC00.04.13	superseded by <i>Our Calling in Education</i> social statement (2007); all evaluation criteria herein are listed in social statement)	adopted as interim measure to provide guidance on ethical discernment of school voucher proposals
<a href="#"><u>Severe Droughts</u></a>	1999	CA99.06.23	refers to specific, timebound crisis	expresses concern for current (1999) droughts in U.S.; calls for strengthening Lutheran Disaster Response drought relief policies
<a href="#"><u>Stand with Africa</u></a>	2001	CA01.07.55	refers to specific, timebound campaign that is no longer operational	acknowledges Churchwide Assembly action (2001) on Stand with Africa campaign
<a href="#"><u>Studies on Sexuality</u></a>	2001	CC01.11.103	refers to specific, timebound actions; superseded by <i>Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust</i> social statement	acknowledges need for further discernment on sexuality; affirms hiring of staff person to lead process of discernment and development of study resources related to social message on “Sexuality: Some Common Convictions”
<a href="#"><u>U.S. Navy Puerto Rico</u></a>	1999	CA99.06.42	focused on military training facility that is now closed; superseded by 2001 social policy resolution	affirms ELCA commitment to human rights; calls for end to U.S. military operations on island of Vieques
<a href="#"><u>World Hunger Report</u></a>	2001	CA01.06.27	refers to outdated project	calls for partnership with Stand with Africa campaign