



2022 Churchwide Assembly Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee – Revised Report 2

Thursday, August 11, 2022

Motion I

Title – Nomination and Election Processes

Submitted by: The Rev. Kathy Gerking [Nebraska Synod, 4A]

WHEREAS, determining leadership is one of the key responsibilities of all expressions of this church; and

WHEREAS, discernment of call to leadership positions in all expressions – for both rostered leaders and lay persons --requires time for reflection, vetting, conversations, background and reference checks, and potentially other steps; and

WHEREAS, synods sometimes have experienced pain, confusion and loss of mission focus resulting from unexamined assumptions and poorly constructed nomination and/or election processes; and

WHEREAS, since the inception of the ELCA, synods have developed many different nomination and election processes, including variations on the ecclesiastical ballot; and

WHEREAS, good governance and good stewardship practices warrant periodic review and analysis of nomination and election processes; and

WHEREAS, the Holy Spirit can work through any process; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Church Council appoint a Task Force to explore and analyze nomination and election processes used by synods and the churchwide organization, including but not limited to the ecclesiastical ballot, in order to determine best practices and to make practical recommendations concerning options for the selection of all synod and churchwide officers; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Task Force report to the Conference of Bishops and Church Council in sufficient time that potential governing document amendments and/or a report on best practices can be prepared in time for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

Recommendation by the Reference and Counsel Committee

To adopt the resolution as presented.

Motion J – Withdrawn *explanation below

Statement from Ms. Tyra Dennis:

The decision to withdraw the original resolution and its substitution is based on the realization of a lack of knowledge. When the resolution was proposed my intention was to put the action behind the words stated on Tuesday in the Presiding Bishop's apology to Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina. Since the resolution has been submitted, I have been in intentional conversation with the community stakeholders and have learned that all of the desired outcomes in the resolution submitted have already been developed and presented by the community, the Sierra Pacific synod and the Latine leadership of the church as of July 2022. As such, I withdraw this Motion with the desire to honor the work of the community that has already been developed and presented to the Office of the Presiding Bishop of the Churchwide Organization and therefore already holds the institution accountable to the proposed actions.

Moción J – Retirada *explicación a continuación

Declaración de Tyra Dennis:

La decisión de retirar la resolución original y su sustitución se basa en la constatación de una falta de conocimiento. Cuando se propuso la resolución, mi intención era poner la acción detrás de las palabras declaradas el martes en la disculpa de la Obispa Presidente a la Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina. Desde que se presentó la resolución, he estado en una conversación intencional con las partes interesadas de la Comunidad y me he enterado de que todos los resultados deseados en la resolución presentada ya han sido desarrollados y presentados por la Comunidad, el Sínodo de Sierra Pacífica y el Liderazgo Latino de la Iglesia a partir de julio de 2022. Como tal, retiro esta Moción con el deseo de honrar el trabajo de la Comunidad que ya ha sido desarrollado y presentado a la Oficina de la Obispa Presidente de la Asamblea de la Iglesia y, por lo tanto, se tiene como responsable a la institución ante las acciones propuestas.

Motion K

Title – Revision to *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* Social Statement

Submitted by: Michael Schulte

To authorize a possible revision of the social statement on *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* which reconsiders the church's current concept of the four positions of bound conscience. This revision would focus on pages 19-21 ("lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships") and any other references to the four positions of bound conscience.

Recommendation by the Reference and Counsel Committee

The committee recommends the approval of Motion K.