

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Abington, Pennsylvania (“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; and

WHEREAS, this congregation accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true witness to the Gospel and accepts the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord as further valid interpretations of the faith of the Church; and

WHEREAS, this congregation wishes to uphold the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and the Lutheran Confessions as its Confession of Faith; and

WHEREAS, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, the new hymnal of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (“ELCA”) has freely emended – not retranslated -- many of the psalms particularly to remove masculine language for God; and

WHEREAS, that same new hymnal has omitted the Gloria Patri from the Nunc Dimittis in Holy Communion settings 1 and 2, has no Gloria at the end of the Venite and Benedictus in Matins, has no Gloria at the end of the Magnificat in Vespers or at the end of the Nunc Dimittis in Compline, thereby indicating that the new hymnal is intentionally omitting Trinitarian doxologies in order to remove masculine language for God, thereby avoiding usage of the Name of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and

WHEREAS, a significant resource for ELCA worship (*Sundays and Seasons*) includes a petition that addresses God as “Mother” in the Prayers of Intercession for December 27, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA, at its 2009 Churchwide Assembly voted to “commit itself to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support and hold publically accountable life-long, monogamous, same gender relationships” although the Word of God has made it clear from the beginning, that, whether one understands oneself to be heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual or transgendered, chastity is the call for those who are single and fidelity is the call for those who are married – and those who are eligible for marriage are a male and a female, as God explicitly designed and ordained and as Jesus Himself reiterated; and

WHEREAS, this congregation’s primary objections to the policies and practices of the ELCA have to do with the authority of Scripture and the holiness of the Name of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and

WHEREAS this congregation began the process of withdrawal from membership in the ELCA on June 6, 2010 and indicated its intention to join the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) once that church body would be formally constituted, when it voted to do so by a 76 % majority of those voting members present and voting (143 in favor of the resolutions and 45 opposed); and

WHEREAS at a special meeting of Congregation Council on June 6, 2010, held immediately following the Specially Called Congregational Meeting, Holy Trinity’s Council passed a resolution requesting that this congregation be received into membership in the NALC effective as of August 27, 2010, the date upon which the NALC was constituted; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this congregation, hereby completes the congregational portion of the process of withdrawal from membership in the ELCA pursuant to Section C6.05 of the constitution of this congregation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the secretary of this congregation is directed to mail a copy of this resolution to the synod bishop and all voting members of this congregation within ten days of its adoption; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Council of this congregation is hereby authorized to take all actions necessary to carry out the purposes of the foregoing resolution.

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING IN INK:

_____ **YES (I approve the resolutions and wish to have Holy Trinity leave the ELCA.)**

_____ **NO (I do not approve the resolutions and wish to have Holy Trinity stay in the ELCA)**