



2023

Memorial 1: For Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Fostering attitudes, behaviors, practice, and knowledge that promote and habituate DEI in our gatherings so that DEI be reflected in the organization at all levels: in the culture, in behavior and actions of individuals; in the actions and perspectives of the board and individual board members.

This was submitted to the 2023 Triennial Convention by the Central States Synodical Women's Organization.

Title: For Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Whereas: human diversity can be defined as differences in race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical and/or mental capabilities, and religious beliefs, with all these vast diversities existing among humans everywhere; and

Whereas: Women of the ELCA has a commitment to a welcoming environment centered in Christ-like love for one another, where all are welcomed to and find hope and joy in every day; and

Whereas: human diversity is not always sufficiently represented in either broad or specific ways among the Women of the ELCA in the resources or products used for creating, teaching, and leading worship;
and

Whereas: Women of the ELCA recognize value in the vastness of human diversity within and among our communities and society-at-large as essential and enriching to learning, working, the human experience in general, and living the ideals of a free and democratic society;
Therefore, be it resolved, that: Women of the ELCA is committed to fostering attitudes, behaviors, practices, and knowledge that promote and habituate diversity, inclusion, and equity in our gatherings;

And therefore, be it further resolved, that: Women of the ELCA's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity will be reflected in the organization at all levels: in the culture, in behavior and actions of individuals; in the actions and perspectives of the board and individual board members.

Memorial 2: Calling for Peace and Unity. We, as Women of the ELCA, commit to strive for peace and unity in all that we do and say so that we may be a light filled with compassion and kindness for all in the midst of hatred, dissension, conflict, and violence that engulfs our world. That we, through our bond of sisterhood in Christ Jesus, encourage and promote harmony, unity, and peace within our homes, church, workplaces, schools, communities, and the country. That we, as Women of the ELCA, hold our local and national leaders in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to fill their hearts that they may become more open-minded, reaching across the aisles to work together for the good of the nation and all its citizens.

Submitted by: Central States Synodical Organization.

Whereas: the purpose of the Women of the ELCA calls us “to promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world”; and

Whereas: we, the Women of the ELCA are called to “engage in ministry and action”; and

Whereas: we, the Women of the ELCA are bold women empowered by the Holy Spirit; and

Whereas: we, the Women of the ELCA are called through scripture to love our neighbor and show mercy to all;

Therefore, be it resolved, that: we, as Women of the ELCA, commit to strive for peace and unity in all that we do and say,

Be it further resolved that: we, as Women of the ELCA, be a light in the midst of the hatred, dissension, conflict, and violence that engulfs our world; may our light be filled with compassion and kindness for all,

Be it further resolved that: we, through our bond of sisterhood in Christ Jesus, encourage and promote, harmony, unity and peace within our homes, churches, workplaces, schools, communities, and the country,

Finally, be it further resolved that: we, as Women of the ELCA, hold our local and national leaders in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to fill their hearts, that they may become more open-minded, reaching across the aisles to work together for the good of the nation and all its citizens.

Memorial 3: Calling for the Safety and Protection of Our Children. That we, as Women of the ELCA, work to protect our children from abuse, exploitation, and discrimination. That we, as Women of the ELCA, work to bring attention to our children’s wellbeing, in order that they may grow and develop in a safe, nurturing, and non-threatening environment. That we, as Women of the ELCA, be educated to recognize signs of abuse and neglect and how to respond appropriately to bring such awareness to those in authority. That we, as Women of the ELCA, will work with community partners to provide resources for positive parenting to parents, caregivers, clergy, and lay leaders. That we, as Women of the ELCA, partner with agencies to assist in the prevention of all aspects of child abuse and, even further, to help families heal, and to restore childhood hope.

Submitted by Central States SWO.

Whereas: the purpose statement of the Women of the ELCA calls us to “promote healing and wholeness in the church, society, and the world”; and

Whereas: we, the Women of the ELCA are called to “engage in ministry and action”; and

Whereas: we, the Women of the ELCA are bold women empowered by the Holy Spirit; and

Whereas: as Jesus called the little children to “come unto me” so we, too, are called by scripture to care and protect God’s gift of all children;

Therefore, be it resolved, that: we, as Women of the ELCA, work to protect our children from abuse, exploitation and discrimination, and

Be it further resolved that: we, as Women of the ELCA, work to bring attention to our children’s safety, and well-being, in order that they may grow and develop in a safe, nurturing, and non-threatening environment and

Be it further resolved that: we, as Women of the ELCA, **be educated to** recognize signs of abuse and neglect and how to respond appropriately to bring such awareness to those in authority, and

Be it further resolved that: we as Women of the ELCA, will work with community partners to provide resources for positive parenting to parents, caregivers, clergy, and lay leaders.

Finally, be it further resolved that: we, as Women of the ELCA, partner with agencies to assist in the prevention of all aspects of child abuse and, even further, to help families heal, and to restore childhood hope.

Memorial 7: A Resolution on Suicide and Mental Health Issues in Youth and Young Adults. That the Women of the ELCA lift up an awareness of this national crisis by publicizing various resources already available. Women of the ELCA further engage in advocating the passage of pending legislation HR 3548/S1700; HR 3498/S 1720/ HR 3451/S1665

Submitted by: South Carolina Synodical Women's Organization

Whereas: social message was adopted by the Church Council of the ELCA in 1999 and updated in 2021,
and

Whereas: the suicide rates for the population as a whole increased approximately 36% between 2000-2021, according to the CDC, and

Whereas: suicide is the second-leading cause of death for ages 10-14 and the third leading cause of death for ages 15-24, according to the CDC, and

Whereas: there is a strong connection between suicide and mental health, and

Whereas: there are resources available to aid in suicide prevention and support mental health,
Therefore, be it resolved, that: the Women of the ELCA lift up an awareness of this national crisis by publicizing various resources that are already available from the following organizations (This list is not all-inclusive, but is given as a starting point.):

State departments of Mental Health and/or Offices of Suicide Prevention

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

and

Be it further resolved that: Women of the ELCA further engage in advocating the passage of pending legislation that has been filed with the 118th Congress such as:

a. H.R. 3548/ S.1700- To address mental health issues for youth, particularly,

youth of color, and for other purposes

b. H.R. 3498/ S.1729- To facilitate nationwide accessibility and coordination of 211 services and

988 services in order to provide information and referral to all residents and visitors in the United States for mental health emergencies, homelessness needs, other social and human services needs, and for other purposes.

c. H.R. 3451/S.1665- To authorize the Secretary of Education to establish an Advisory commission on Serving and Supporting Students with Mental Health Disabilities in Institutions of Higher Education, and for other purposes.

Finally, be it further resolved that: all expressions of Women of the ELCA work to educate the public about currently available resources to aid in suicide prevention, to advocate for the passage of pending legislation with their state legislatures to improve the care of the mentally ill, and to advocate for better mental health resources for our children to aid in suicide prevention at not only the national level, but also at the state and local levels.

Memorial 8. Dignity and Accessibility for All. That we commit to supporting all participants regardless of differing abilities of speech, language, hearing, physical difference, gender identity, or sexual orientation. That the planning committee of any Women of the ELCA event at all expression levels would consult with diverse individuals to ensure that content is welcoming and inclusive to all. That the planning of any Women of the ELCA event at all expression levels would exercise all due diligence to seek out facilities and accommodations, such as translation and ADA accessibility, that honor the personal dignity of all participants. That all communication for Women of the ELCA events and activities include the list of available accessibility accommodations.

Submitted by: Southwestern Texas Synodical Women's Organization

Whereas: we are called to welcome all people, and yet, we have fallen short of offering inclusive

gatherings and events that enable all people of varied abilities to attend; and

Whereas: our Women of the ELCA purpose statement affirms our commitment to supporting one

another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world; and

Whereas: in our ELCA values we state we want to acknowledge each individual's dignity and rights;

Therefore, be it resolved, that: we commit to supporting all participants regardless of differing abilities of speech, language, hearing, physical difference, gender identity, or sexual orientation;

Be it further resolved that: the planning committee of any Women of the ELCA event at all expression levels would consult with diverse individuals to ensure that content is welcoming and inclusive to all;

Be it further resolved that: the planning committee of any Women of the ELCA event at all expression levels would exercise all due diligence to seek out facilities and accommodations, such as translation and ADA accessibility, that honor the personal dignity of all participants;

Finally, be it further resolved that: all communication for Women of the ELCA events and activities include the list of **available** accessibility accommodations.

Resolution 2023.01 End Racism by Participating in Study such as Now is the Time: Study of the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent. That women of the ELCA organizations encourage their participants and groups to study the problem of racism using resources such as *Now is the Time* study, and if possible offer online or other sessions of the study. That Synodical Women's Organizations report to the 2025 Conference of Presidents or similar gathering concerning actions taken by the SWO or individual congregations in their synod to learn more about racism and its ongoing Actions effects on people of African descent. Submitted by the ECSW SWO

- The study guide can be downloaded here: [Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent - Study Guide - ELCA Resources](#)
- A webinar can be watched here. [Webinar for Now Is the Time: A Study Guide for ELCA Declaration to People of African Descent on Vimeo](#)

Resolution 2023.02 Participation in Truth and Healing Movement. That all Synodical Women's Organizations encourage women participants to use Truth and Healing resources and encourage all congregations in their synod, who do not already have one, to create their own land acknowledgement for use across their synod. That all Synodical Women's Organizations report to the 2025 Conference of Presidents or similar gathering concerning actions taken by the SWO or individual congregations in their synod for the sake of celebrating these first steps toward truth and healing in our church.

- **Instructions for creating a land acknowledgement statement are here:** [ELCA Land Acknowledgement Guide Memorandum](#)
- **To lead a book study on Custer Died for Our Sins:**
Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto by Vine Deloria Jr. (Standing Rock Sioux). [Order books here](#). If you are the leader of your reading circle, here is a gift for you! Use [this discussion guide](#) to lead your circle through *Custer Died for Your Sins*. Take your time reading and discussing the book, but start your reading now!
[DOWNLOAD GUIDE](#)
- *More resources available here* [Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations](#)