

Resolution 2023-2: Regarding Anti-LGBTQ Legislation –  
MSC by the Alaska Synod Assembly on April 30, 2023

WHEREAS, Alaska Public Media and the Anchorage Daily News has reported on March 6, 2023 and March 4, 2023 respectively that the current administration holding the office of Governor of Alaska has removed its policy protecting LGBTQ+ Alaskans;<sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS, the grace of Christ blurs any distinctions we may make between the sexes when the Apostle Paul writes, “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus” (Gal 3:28); and

WHEREAS, the Bible witnesses to God’s generous grace to sexual “others” as seen in God’s love for Eunuchs (cf. Isa 56:3; Acts 8); and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s (ELCA) 2009 social statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* speaks of the “The necessity of mercy, always” when understanding Human Sexuality, teaching that we cannot support political actions that cause harm to LGBTQ+ neighbors;<sup>2</sup> and

WHEREAS, the 2019 ELCA social statement *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call To Action* reminds us that, due to the intersectional nature of sexism, anti-LGBTQ+ policies hurt cisgendered men and women as well;<sup>3</sup> and

WHEREAS, the 2020 ELCA social message *Government and Civic Engagement: Discipleship in a Democracy* draws on traditional Lutheran theology pertaining to Luther’s Two Kingdoms, reminding us that “[t]he church teaches that civic engagement is a vital aspect of discipleship for baptized Christians;”<sup>4</sup> and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2023, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA Elizabeth Eaton issued a statement saying that, despite differences of opinion on matters related to sexual orientation and gender identity, we must “recognize and affirm the humanity of our transgender and nonbinary siblings” and “advocate for their dignity;” therefore, be it...<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Early, “Report Finds That Dunleavy Administration Quietly Removed Policy Protecting LGBTQ Alaskans from Discrimination”; Alaska Public Media cites the article by Hopkins, “Alaska Drops Policy Banning Discrimination against LGBTQ Individuals.”

<sup>2</sup> Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust.”

<sup>3</sup> Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action.”

<sup>4</sup> Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, “Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy.”

<sup>5</sup> Eaton, “Bishop Eaton Issues Statement on Anti-Transgender Legislation.” The Presiding Bishop likely refers to the ACLU’s number of anti-LGBTQ legislation in her statement as well (see above).

RESOLVED, the Alaska Synod of the ELCA, in Assembly, recognizes and affirms the humanity of LGBTQ+ people, recognizing that many of our congregations are spiritual homes of LGBTQ+ Christians; and be it further. . .

RESOLVED, the Alaska Synod, in Assembly, denounces any anti-LGBTQ actions and policies witnessed in Alaska state and national politics; and be it further. . .

RESOLVED, the Alaska Synod, in Assembly, encourages members of the Assembly and member congregations who feel called by the Holy Spirit to contact their representatives to encourage them to support LGBTQ+ Alaskans, requesting the Governor of Alaska to reinstate protections for LGBTQ+ Alaskans in its policies.

Resolved, the Alaska Synod, in Assembly, charges the synod council with curation of resources for education and advocacy for LGBTQ+ Alaskans, to be revised every 3 years, as the council deems feasible. Further, the Assembly charges the synod council, or an appointee of the council to draft a letter in response to the legislature and executive of the state of Alaska requesting protections of the LGBTQ+ Alaskans be reinstated.

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Fairbanks Lutheran Church Council, March 23, 2023

Dillingham Trinity Lutheran Church Council, April 1, 2023

Island of Faith Lutheran Church Council, April 2023

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