How-to: Memorials and Resolutions

Memorials and resolutions are one way that this church addresses broad policy issues or important issues for God's mission in the world.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

MEMORIALS

Memorials address broad policy issues or programs in the churchwide organization. They are adopted by synods at their assemblies and then passed on to the Churchwide Assembly.

Step 1. Member brings recommendation to his or her congregation.

Step 2. Congregation members write memorial, submit it to their Synod Assembly and complete financial implications work sheet.

Step 3. Synod Resolutions Committee or Reference and Counsel Committee recommends action to the Synod Assembly.

Step 4. Synod Assembly acts with a vote.

Step 5. If passed, the memorial is referred to the Memorials Committee, appointed by the Church Council.

Step 6. Memorials Committee recommends action to the Churchwide Assembly.

Step 7. Churchwide Assembly acts with a vote.

Step 8. Church Council oversees implementation as necessary.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions for the whole church recommend a specific action to be taken by the ELCA via its churchwide units and/or offices. Resolutions are adopted by synod councils and then passed on to the Church Council.

Step 1. Congregation brings recommendation to Synod Council.

Step 2. Synod Council writes resolution and completes financial implications worksheet.

Step 3. Synod Council acts with a vote.

Step 4. If approved, resolution is sent by Synod Council to the Church Council.

Step 5. Church Council acts with a vote. If approved, resolution is assigned to the churchwide office for implementation.

Resolutions and amendments to the ELCA constitution can also be introduced on the floor of a Churchwide Assembly.

Step 1. Voting member brings new business to the assembly floor by submitting a written resolution by the established deadline to the Reference and Counsel Committee, appointed by the Church Council.

Step 1a. If there are financial or budgetary implications to the resolution, it is reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council.

Step 2. Reference and Counsel Committee recommends action to the Churchwide Assembly.

Step 3. Churchwide Assembly acts with a vote.