

**Resolution: 4**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken: Adopted**  
(yes = 322, no = 30, abstain = 9)

**Subject: ELCA Social Statements**  
**Source: South Dakota Synod Council**

WHEREAS, the Church Council voted at its November 2010 meeting "to request that future social documents be scheduled with sensitivity to the time demands involving elected churchwide leadership, including bishops, Church Council members, and synodical leaders," "to acknowledge the preference that only one major document be in process at any one time," and to adopt a revised schedule for the development and consideration of social statements; and

WHEREAS, the Church Council also called on its Program and Services Committee to "consider the relevant actions of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly and reassess the revised timeline and question of capacity" at its November 2011 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force is recommending that "the Church Council with the Conference of Bishops establish a process to review the effectiveness of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements" and that the process "reflect the spirit and culture of communal discernment"; and

WHEREAS, the LIFT task force is recommending "no social statements be brought to Churchwide Assemblies until the review process is completed" with the possible exception of the genetics social statement; and

WHEREAS, the LIFT task force also calls for strengthening synods as catalysts for mission and outreach and recommends that "synods . . . prioritize the responsibilities in their constitutions to reflect a focus on equipping congregations and leaders"; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, meeting in assembly, support the action of the April 2011 Church Council and the work of the LIFT Task Force asking for the establishment of a task force that will carry out a comprehensive study of how moral and ethical discernment might be best done by all expressions of this church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, meeting in assembly, request that a report and recommendations from the task force be considered at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.