



South Dakota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Resolutions and Memorials

Memorials address broad policy issues and are passed by synod assemblies for consideration by the Churchwide Assembly. Synod councils are not authorized to adopt memorials for submission to the Churchwide Assembly. Once received by the churchwide organization, they are referred to the Memorials Committee, appointed by the Church Council, to review and make recommendations to the Churchwide Assembly.

Resolutions are requests from synods to the Church Council or units of the churchwide organization. Either synod assemblies or synod councils may originate resolutions. Resolutions normally have a more narrow focus than memorials because they are requests for consideration or action by individual units or the Church Council. Example: A request for the Church Council to recommend a parliamentary rule would be the subject of a resolution; a request to change an ELCA policy should be a memorial.

A resolution and a memorial may not be combined in one action. In addition, a synod should not address both the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly on the same subject. Neither resolutions nor memorials may direct the churchwide organization to take action. They are proposals that request specified action.

Resolutions and memorials may be submitted by voting members, congregation church councils, synod councils, committees, task forces, and the Resolution Committee.

Resolutions and memorials frequently contain both “whereas” clauses and “resolved” clauses. “Whereas” clauses constitute a preamble describing the reasons for the proposed action. “Resolved” clauses state the action to be taken by the assembly. “Whereas” clauses are not required. “Resolved” clauses, if adopted, become the officially worded statement of an action by the churchwide organization or the Churchwide Assembly.