

## Reference and Counsel – Motion 1.2

### MOTION 1.2

**RELATING TO:** Loving our LGBTQIA+ Neighbour

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Rev. Steve Hoffard, St. Mark's – Kingston, ON  
Rev. Dr. Kristine Lund – Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Waterloo ON  
Mark Weingartner – St. John's Lutheran Church, Hamilton, ON  
Rev. Lori Pilatzke – St. David's Anglican-Lutheran Church, Orillia, ON  
Rev. Robert Wiesner – Holy Trinity, Belleville, ON  
Miranda Gray – Resurrection Lutheran Church of Orleans, Orleans, ON  
Rev. Dr. Elaine Boone – Advent Lutheran Church, North York, ON  
Rev. Joel Crouse – St. John Lutheran Church, Ottawa, ON  
Rev. Anne Anderson – Third Space, Waterloo, ON  
Rev. Joanna Miller – Zion Lutheran, Philipsburg, ON & St. James Lutheran, Baden, ON  
Rev. Rick Pryce – Zion Evangelical Lutheran, Lunenburg, NS  
Rev. Bruce Thompson – St. Timothy's, Pembroke, ON

**MOTION:**

*Whereas,*

The Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran church in Canada recognizes that:

- We are all created in the image and likeness of an eternally expansive, diverse, uncontainable, and indescribable God.
- The gospel of Christ calls us to sacrifice our comfort, our privilege, and our power for the good of the other.
- The gospel we proclaim has to be good news to the poor, liberation to the captive, recovery of sight to the blind, and God's grace for all to be the gospel of Jesus Christ.

*Whereas,*

While there are some congregations in the ELCIC that have made an effort to welcome LGBTQIA+ <sup>i</sup> persons there remains much work to be done to not only welcome but to affirm them, living fully into the Social Statement on Human Sexuality<sup>ii</sup>, approved at the 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention of the ELCIC held in Saskatoon in 2011:

- After the passing of the social statement, many congregations continued to not engage or stopped engaging in education and conversation around issues of human sexuality.
- The church has not done the work of reconciliation for the harm it has caused to LGBTQIA+ children of God.
- Many of our LGBTQIA+ siblings still experience exclusion and separation from full membership in the body of Christ.
- LGBTQIA+ youth continue to have higher instances of depression, and suicidal ideation, suicidal attempts or completion. <sup>iii</sup>

*Therefore be it resolved,*

That the Eastern Synod urges congregations to take seriously the commandment to love our neighbour by:

- Finding ways to build relationships with and affirm members of the LGBTQIA+ community.
- Develop and implement a process for reconciliation with those same members as well as those who have left the church.
- Gather and provide resources for educating our members as well as sponsoring educational events, and inviting speakers to adult and continuing education events.
- Speak out against instances of hatred and discrimination and advocate for LGBTQIA+ persons within our communities.
- Work with mental health agencies or groups within the community to support LGBTQIA+ youth.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adoption

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<sup>i</sup> <https://lgbtqiainfo.weebly.com/acronym-letters-explained.html>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://elcic.ca/Human-Sexuality/documents/APPROVEDELICISocialStatementonHumanSexuality.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> [https://www.rainbowhealthontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/woocommerce\\_uploads/2013/08/RHO\\_FactSheet\\_LGBTYOUTHSUICIDE\\_E.pdf](https://www.rainbowhealthontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/woocommerce_uploads/2013/08/RHO_FactSheet_LGBTYOUTHSUICIDE_E.pdf)