



ELCA - SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD

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January 17, 2005

Dear Congregational and Rostered Leaders:

At the January 14-15 meeting of the Southeastern Synod Council the "Report and Recommendations from the Task Force for Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Studies on Sexuality" was discussed. The Synod Council may now properly send a response or memorial to the ELCA Church Council by March 15 for consideration at its April 8-11 meeting. It was the consensus of the Council that we postpone any action until we have given the report further prayerful consideration and asked for input from you.

The Synod Council will not attempt to speak on your behalf by addressing the issues of homosexuality; that will be the responsibility of the Synod Assembly. We will rather be reflecting on the meaning, logic, feasibility and potential consequences of the report. If you would like us to include your thoughts in our discernment, please send them to me by mail or email (pr.paul-gslc@comcast.net) by February 15. All responses will be forwarded to SES Council members who will gather for discussion on March 1.

Please be aware of all of the resources available to you on the ELCA and SES websites as the church continues to discuss these issues. The December/January edition of *The Transformer* has a timeline and letter from Bishop Warren detailing other ways that you might respond to the report.

As Synod Secretary, I urge you to use the proper form and meet the deadline (April 15) for any resolutions or memorials you propose to be considered at the Synod Assembly. The Reference and Council Committee must review all resolutions and memorials before they are distributed. Only those memorials and resolutions meeting the deadline can be distributed prior to the Assembly. As we anticipate the possibility that there will be an unusually high number of resolutions and memorials, and as resolutions and memorials containing similar thoughts must be logically combined, those submitted after the deadline will have much less opportunity for study and consideration by the voting members. Please note the attached guidelines for drafting and submitting "resolutions" to the Synod Assembly and "memorials" to the Churchwide Assembly in Orlando.

Your Synod Council holds your congregation in our prayers as you consider the "Report and Recommendations from the Task Force for Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Studies on Sexuality."

In Christ,

The Rev. Paul W. Baumgartner
Synod Secretary

Attachment