

Memorial to the 2028 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Title: *Affirming the Sacredness, Dignity, and Flourishing of Every Person*

Submitted by: *[Name of Synod] Synod Assembly*

Date: *[Month, Day, Year]*

Whereas the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) professes that all human beings are created in the image of God, redeemed by Christ's life, death, and resurrection, and called to lives of dignity, justice, and loving community; and

Whereas God's mission in the world invites the church to advocate for the well-being, flourishing, and full participation of every person across all dimensions of life, including access to safe and stable housing, healthcare and medical care, education, employment and economic participation, community engagement, sports and recreation, and other arenas of communal life; and

Whereas, the ELCA has long engaged in public witness and social ministry in matters of human dignity and justice as reflected in its social teaching and advocacy work; and

Whereas many individuals and communities in the United States and around the world face systemic barriers to these basic conditions of flourishing because of economic insecurity, discrimination, exclusionary policies, or limited access to essential services and opportunities; and

Whereas the ELCA's commitments to justice, compassion, and advocacy call the church to support efforts that promote inclusive access to these essential conditions of human flourishing,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the *[Name of Synod] Synod Assembly* memorialize the 2028 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to affirm the sacredness and inherent dignity of every human being as a precious creation of God called to flourish in all aspects of life; and

Be it further Resolved that this assembly encourage the churchwide organization, synods, congregations, ministries, and ministries of public advocacy within the ELCA to proactively support policies, programs, and partnerships that expand access to affordable and secure housing, comprehensive and equitable medical

care, quality education, inclusive community engagement, safe and accessible opportunities in sports and recreation, and other areas that advance human flourishing; and

Be it further resolved that the ELCA urge advocacy at local, state, national, and global levels for laws, policies, and systems that uphold human dignity and reduce barriers to flourishing for marginalized and vulnerable populations; and

Be it further resolved that this assembly request the churchwide organization, through its offices and units, to provide resources, educational materials, and opportunities for congregations and synods to engage their communities in these concerns and to foster collaborative action toward these goals; and

Be it further resolved that the churchwide organization invite ELCA members and congregations to incorporate this affirmation into their ongoing ministries of service, accompaniment, advocacy, and worship, seeking to live out Christ's reconciling love in all areas of life.

Companion Resolution of the [Name of Synod] Synod Council

Affirming the Sacredness, Dignity, and Right of Every Person to Flourish

Adopted by: [Name of Synod] Synod Council

Date: [Month Day, Year]

Whereas the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America confesses that every person is created in the image of God and is worthy of dignity, care, and full participation in the life of the community; and

Whereas, the gospel of Jesus Christ calls the Church to accompany neighbors in seeking justice, healing, and abundant life, particularly where people experience exclusion, harm, or barriers to flourishing; and

Whereas, human flourishing depends on access to essential and interconnected aspects of life, including but not limited to safe and affordable housing, comprehensive and affirming medical care, education, community belonging and civic engagement, employment and economic security, arts, sports, and recreation, and other expressions of communal life; and

Whereas many individuals and communities—especially those who are marginalized or made vulnerable by systemic inequities, discrimination, or unjust policies—continue to face barriers to these basic conditions of dignity and well-being; and

Whereas, the ELCA has a long tradition of social teaching, public witness, and advocacy rooted in faith, scripture, and Lutheran theology that affirms God's desire for justice, wholeness, and life-giving community for all people,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the [Name of Synod] Synod Council affirms the sacred worth, inherent dignity, and God-given right of every person to flourish in all aspects of life, without exception; and

Be it further resolved that it commits to supporting ministries, policies, and practices within the synod that promote equitable access to housing, healthcare, education, community life, sports and recreation, and other conditions necessary for human flourishing; and

Be it further resolved that it encourages congregations, ministries, and synod-related organizations to engage in education, accompaniment, and advocacy that reflect these commitments in their local contexts; and

Be it further resolved that it supports the work of ELCA partners and affiliated ministries, including ReconcilingWorks, whose mission and resources equip the church to live out these values of welcome, justice, and inclusion; and

Be it further resolved that it calls upon synod staff and leadership to consider these commitments in synod planning, public witness, partnerships, and communications, as appropriate to the synod's context and capacity; and

Be it further resolved that it directs that this resolution be shared with congregations of the synod and with the churchwide organization as a statement of the synod's values and commitments.