

## **R-2: Memorialize Churchwide to Update the Social Statement on Abortion**

**Whereas;** the 1991 Social Statement on Abortion (SSoA) may have been adequate for its time allowing for and addressing diversity of perspectives.

**Whereas;** SSoA does not directly address more current medical perspectives.

**Whereas;** SSoA does not address the historical ecclesiastical understanding of when human life begins.

**Whereas;** SSoA does not address the broader understanding of ‘family’ – regarding sexual orientation and 21<sup>st</sup> century family units.

**Whereas;** SSoA might consider expanding on how to right the injustices regarding life before and after birth – namely such things as pre-natal care, a living wage, family leave, social networks to support children and their families.

**Whereas;** SSoA might consider expanding the extenuating circumstances that may call for an abortion in the light of more recent social conditions.

**Therefore be it resolved,** that the Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America requests that Churchwide leaders revise, update, or create a new Social Statement on Abortion; and

**Be it further resolved,** this process should include the partnership of women clergy, women deacons, and lay women of our Synods and congregations.

Submitted by the Rostered Leaders of the North Conference

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Update: April 6, 2023

Action of the NIS Resolution Committee: Recommend Adoption of the Resolution