



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Sierra Pacific Synod

committed to being re-formed

November 15, 2016

Continuing Resolution and Proposed Bylaw Change

Dear Pastors and Congregational Presidents of the Sierra Pacific Synod:

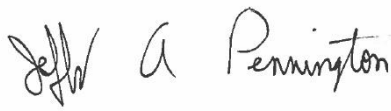
At its September 2016 meeting, the Synod Council adopted the following continuing resolution to be inserted into the Synod's constitution:

S6.04.A16 This synod interprets synod provision S6.04, and ELCA constitutional provision 5.01.g, on which S6.04 is based, as fundamentally inclusive statements of participation within the life and work of the synod. While these provisions make specific reference to "male" and "female" members, this synod acknowledges and celebrates the full spectrum of gender identities claimed by children of God throughout our church. In no way shall the binary language of "male" and "female" in any provision of this synod's governing documents be used to exclude an individual from full participation in the life and work of this synod if they claim another gender identity. The Synod Council shall work to communicate, uphold, and implement this interpretation as necessary. The Synod Council shall update this continuing resolution and any provision of these governing documents referencing gender upon the conclusion of the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

This does not require any action on your part. I am simply informing you of this newly adopted continuing resolution, pursuant to synod constitution bylaw SB18.31.01., which requires that the synod secretary report to the congregations and pastors of the Synod any continuing resolution adopted by the Synod Council.

Also at its September meeting, the Synod Council approved proposed changes to Synod Constitution bylaw SB9.01.01 regarding provisions for elections of voting members to the Churchwide Assembly. Changes to this bylaw have been necessitated by the Synod's new conference configuration. These changes will be presented to the 2017 Synod Assembly for approval. A text of these proposed changes, highlighted in red, can be found on the [Synod website](#). Please feel free to share this text with voting members from your congregation to the synod assembly.

Yours in Christ Jesus,



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Committed to being re-formed...

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