

Resolutions & Memorials

It's time! Time to start thinking about our upcoming Synod Assembly. Time to start preparing for our upcoming Synod Assembly. Time to start thinking about Resolutions and Memorials.

Resolutions and Memorials – and the whole of the “Resolutions” process – are an integral aspect of our annual synod assemblies. As the highest legislative expression of the Sierra Pacific Synod, it is the Synod “in assembly” that may request action by congregational, synodical or churchwide expressions of the ELCA. Resolutions and Memorials may be offered by synod congregations, by conferences, by discipling teams and authorized task forces, by affiliated organizations and institutions, or by at least fifteen voting members of the Assembly itself.

By way of reminder, though Resolutions and Memorials are treated with a similar process, they are not the same thing:

- Memorials specifically address broad policy issues and are passed by synod assemblies for consideration by the Churchwide Assembly. Only a synod assembly may address a memorial to the Churchwide Assembly. (The Synod Council is NOT authorized to act upon or offer Memorials.)
- Resolutions are requests for action by one group within the synod of another group within the synod, of the synod as a whole, or of the units or offices of the churchwide organization. (The Synod Council may offer and act upon Resolutions between meetings of the Synod Assembly.)

Prior to their presentation to the Assembly, both Resolutions and Memorials are vetted by the Resolutions Committee. The Resolutions Committee is asked to “receive, review and prepare” resolutions so as to ensure that they are legal, factual and understandable. Additionally, the Resolutions Committee works with submitters of resolutions to edit (or occasionally consolidate) resolutions for clarity and procedural purposes. While the Resolutions Committee has authority to recommend action on any resolution that the Committee presents to the Assembly (including the adoption or rejection of the resolution, or a referral of the proposed action to another synodical entity), resolutions are normally referred to the Assembly without recommendation.

The 2025 Resolutions Committee humbly requests that resolutions to this year’s Assembly be submitted to the Chair of the Resolutions Committee (emailed to Pastor John Valentine at jvalentine@holyshepherd.org) no later than **Monday, April 14th**. Submitting them by this date will ensure that the Resolutions Committee has ample time to properly prepare and promptly distribute them to all voting members.

Be aware that in order for a Resolution or Memorial to be received, the Resolutions Committee will need to know the following:

- Who is/are the submitters of this resolution?
- What is the organizational status of the submitters? (Is it a Congregation? A Conference? An Authorized Body? A collection of at least 15 Voting Members?)
- Who (which one individual) is authorized by the submitters to consult (and negotiate edits) with the Resolutions Committee on the submitters’ behalf?

- What financial impacts will this resolution / memorial potentially have on budgets and financial resources at a churchwide level, a synod level and/or a congregational level?
- What is the contact information (name / phone number / email address) for that authorized person?

Thanks for your understanding --- and see you (online) at our 2025 Synod Assembly! AND ... if you like to be considered as a member of the Resolutions Committee, please let Chair John Valentine know at your earliest convenience!

The Rev. Dr. John B. Valentine
2025 Resolutions Committee Chair