



Allegheny Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Memorials and Resolutions Summary

For recording and proper distribution, all resolutions and memorials are to be submitted by synods only to the secretary of this church and not directly to churchwide units.

Some confusion exists about what may be addressed more appropriately in resolutions to the Church Council rather than memorials to the Churchwide Assembly.

Although both memorials and resolutions are requests by a synod for action, they are intended to address different issues and are processed differently.

In 1988, the Church Council voted that communications from synods to the churchwide organization and the Churchwide Assembly would be made pursuant to ELCA constitutional provisions and bylaws. Essentially, this action affirmed three avenues for communication:

- (1) the Synod Assembly may address the Churchwide Assembly through memorials;
- (2) the Synod Council may address the Church Council through resolutions; and
- (3) the Synod Council may address churchwide units or offices through the Church Council's Executive Committee (including forwarding resolutions adopted by synod assemblies).

Synod assemblies may address the Churchwide Assembly through memorials.

A memorial adopted by the Synod Assembly is submitted to the Churchwide Assembly with a recommendation for action from the Memorials Committee of the Churchwide Assembly. The "resolved" clause of a memorial could begin:

- RESOLVED, that the ____ Synod Assembly memorialize the 2022 Churchwide Assembly to . . .

Memorials address broad policy issues and are passed by synod assemblies for consideration by the Churchwide Assembly. The Synod Council is not authorized to adopt memorials for submission to the Churchwide Assembly. A responsibility of the Churchwide Assembly, in accordance with provision 12.21.c, in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, is to "receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies." Once received by the Office of the Secretary, memorials are referred to the Memorials Committee, which is appointed by the Church Council to review and make recommendations to the Churchwide Assembly, in accordance with bylaw 12.51.02. The Memorials Committee meets following the final Synod Assembly before a churchwide assembly.

Synod Councils may address the Church Council through resolutions.

The Synod Council may also forward resolutions adopted by synod assemblies. The final "resolved" clause of such an assembly action should include this provision:

- RESOLVED, that the __ Synod Assembly direct the __ Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and possible action.

Synod Councils may address churchwide units or offices through the Church Council's Executive Committee.

The Synod Council may also forward such resolutions adopted by synod assemblies. The final "resolved" clause of such an assembly action should include this provision:

- RESOLVED, that the __ Synod Assembly direct the __ Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council's Executive Committee for proper referral and disposition under the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church.