

1 Resolution 2025-01

2 Resolution for Expanded Preaching and Teaching on the Stories of Women in the Bible  
3 and Use of Female Imagery of God and of God's Work in the World

4 WHEREAS the ELCA's social statement entitled "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to  
5 Action," adopted at the churchwide assembly, August 2019, sets a precedence for the  
6 church to take meaningful action to combat sexist attitudes including but not limited to  
7 the following:

- 8 • Sexism is sinful and that women and girls in particular suffer a range of harm and  
9 injustice due to sex (biological), gender, or both.
- 10 • The ELCA teaches that God's Word of Law and Gospel speaks through  
11 Scriptures and that their continued misuse contributes to maintaining hierarchies  
12 and patterns of inequity and harm.
- 13 • The ELCA recognizes that the body of Christ is called to honor and support  
14 women and girls from a variety of backgrounds, identities, and personal  
15 experiences in ways more consistent with life-giving theology and faith practices.
- 16 • Martin Luther emphasized that Scriptures should be read by paying attention to  
17 what proclaims Christ-what carries the gospel message of God's grace and mercy  
18 to **all** people.
- 19 • The ELCA specifically commits to promote the practice and use of scriptural  
20 translation and interpretation that acknowledge the contexts in which the Scripture  
21 were written and reject the misuse of Scripture that has supported sexist attitude  
22 and patriarchal structures and,

23 WHEREAS the lack of preaching and teaching of women's stories in Scripture and  
24 female imagery of God in Scripture sends an incomplete gospel message of God's  
25 grace and mercy to the people of the church and,

26 WHEREAS established lectionaries and resources used by our faith communities are  
27 often written by men and often do not contain exegesis of Scripture in supporting justice  
28 for women and therefore do not contain a fair balance of stories of women and  
29 Scriptural uses of imagery for God and for God's work in the world and,

30 WHEREAS our faith communities do not get to hear the fullness of Scriptures and  
31 understand its context in a way we can knowledgeably combat misuse of Scripture and,

32 WHEREAS, corporate worship, inclusive of preaching is one of the primary ways in  
33 which faith formation is nurtured.

34 Be it RESOLVED that each pastor and faith community commit to preaching and  
35 teaching the stories of women in Scripture and exploring female imagery of God in  
36 Scripture and,

37 Be it FURTHER RESOLVED that this synod encourages pastors and leaders in  
38 preparation for teaching and preaching intentionally seek out commentaries and

39 resources written by women, depart from commonly used lectionaries if necessary to  
40 present the stories of women and to share resources necessary to do so with each  
41 other.

42 Submitted by:

43 Pastor Sue Leibnitz

44 Pastor Kira Anderson

45 Pastor Carrie Chatelaine

46 Rev Dr. Char Rachuy Cox

47 Pastor Hannah Bergstrom De Leon

48

49 *Submitted by the Cannon River Conference Assembly*

50 *Approved by the Cannon River Conference Assembly on February 16, 2025*

51 *Reference and Counsel recommends both the consideration of this resolution and its*  
52 *passing because the resolution is in alignment with our social statement and it serves as*  
53 *a reminder to pastors and congregations of this need.*

1 Resolution 2025-02

2 Support for the Least of These and the Ministries that Serve Them

3 WHEREAS the greatest two commandments of our faith are to love the Lord our God  
4 with our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves  
5 (Matthew 22:35-40, Mark 12:28-31, Luke 10:25-28, Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Leviticus  
6 19:18);

7 WHEREAS Jesus himself instructs us to show our neighbor mercy (Luke 6:36, 10:29-37)  
8 and calls us especially to care for the marginalized and the “least of these” (Matthew  
9 25:31-46), including the sick, the hungry, the homeless, the imprisoned, and the stranger;

10 WHEREAS Jesus calls the poor and hungry blessed (Luke 6:20-21, Matthew 5:1-10) and  
11 likewise blesses the merciful and the peacemakers;

12 WHEREAS we are called in our baptism “to serve all people, following the example of  
13 Jesus,” and “to strive for justice and peace in all the earth” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
14 pp 228, 236-237); and

15 WHEREAS the motives and integrity of our Lutheran serving arms, including LSS  
16 (Lutheran Social Services), Global Refuge, AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrants with  
17 Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities), and others have been publicly  
18 called into question; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, that we as the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA affirm our  
20 commitment to living out our baptismal vocation in daily life; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we likewise affirm our support for LSS, Global Refuge,  
22 AMMPARO, ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all our serving arms  
23 that do the work of showing mercy and care and love to our siblings around the world; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage all individuals and congregations of the  
25 Southeastern Minnesota Synod to engage in the ongoing work of serving and seeking  
26 justice and peace for our neighbor by supporting the work of our serving arms.

27 Submitted by the Mission Leadership Team of People of Hope, Rochester

28 *Reference and Counsel recommends both the consideration of this resolution and its*  
29 *passing because the committee recognizes that, given the public discourse around our*  
30 *Lutheran partner ministries, we want to stand with our Lutheran partners and all people.*

1 Resolution 2025-03

2 Support for the Least of These and the Ministries that Serve Them

3 WHEREAS the greatest two commandments of our faith are to love the Lord our God  
4 with our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves  
5 (Matthew 22:35-40, Mark 12:28-31, Luke 10:25-28, Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Leviticus  
6 19:18);

7 WHEREAS Jesus himself instructs us to show our neighbor mercy (Luke 6:36, 10:29-37)  
8 and calls us especially to care for the marginalized and the “least of these” (Matthew  
9 25:31-46), including the sick, the hungry, the thirsty, the homeless, the imprisoned, and the  
10 stranger;

11 WHEREAS Jesus calls the poor, the hungry, and the thirsty blessed (Luke 6:20-21, Matt  
12 5:1-10) and likewise blesses the merciful and the peacemakers;

13 WHEREAS we are called in our baptism “to serve all people, following the example of  
14 Jesus,” and “to strive for justice and peace in all the earth” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
15 pp 228, 236-237); and

16 WHEREAS the motives and integrity of our Lutheran serving arms, including Lutheran  
17 Social Services, Global Refuge, AMMPARO, and others have been publicly called  
18 into question; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, that we as the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA affirm our  
20 commitment to living out our baptismal vocation in daily life; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commit ourselves to standing up for the rights and  
22 dignity of all God’s beloved children, especially for our siblings of color, our queer and  
23 transgender siblings, our migrant and refugee siblings, our hungry and thirsty siblings and  
24 those experiencing homelessness, our siblings with disabilities, and all our siblings whose  
25 rights are being threatened; and we commit ourselves to speaking out against discrimination  
26 and prejudice in all places and all ways.

27 Submitted by the Mission Leadership Team of People of Hope, Rochester

28 *Reference and Counsel recommends both the consideration of this resolution and its passing*  
29 *because the committee recognizes that, given the public discourse around our Lutheran*  
30 *partner ministries, we want to stand with our Lutheran partners and all people.*