Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

The function of the Reference and Counsel Committee (RC Committee) is to review and report all original main motions of resolutions together with any recommendations and to prepare and present general resolutions of courtesy and acknowledgment. The authority and operating guidance for the RC Committee are located at S7.51.04 in the bylaws of the Southeastern Iowa Synod.

Pursuant to S7.51.04, resolutions may be submitted forty-five days prior to the Synod Assembly. This year there were two resolutions submitted by the April 3, 2018 deadline. These resolutions have been reviewed, acted upon, and readied for presentation at the Assembly.

It is still possible for resolutions to be submitted to the 2018 Assembly. Please submit your request in the form of a resolution to Lorraine Jordan (jordan@seiasynod.org) at the Southeastern Iowa Synod Center for Ministry. Pursuant to S7.51.04, resolutions received less than forty-five days prior to the Synod Assembly shall be reported to the Assembly as information. At the discretion of the RC Committee these resolutions may be referred to the Assembly for consideration. A resolution reported to the Assembly by the RC Committee as information may be taken up by the Assembly for consideration following a two-thirds vote of the Assembly to do so. Otherwise, all resolutions that are reported to the Assembly as information shall be referred to the Synod Council.

For assistance with a resolution or further information, contact Pastor Eric Carlson at Carlson@seiasynod.org

Members
The Rev. Michael Schmidt (Grace Lutheran Church, Des Moines)
Judy Huenke-Kremer (St. John’s Lutheran Church, St. Donatus)
Dave Hanson (Zion Lutheran Church, Muscatine)
Ben Matthies (Augustana Lutheran Church, Boone)
The Rev. Stephanie Malin (Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church, Lisbon)
Bishop Michael Burk, Ex Officio

Advisory Members
The Rev. Eric Carlson, Synod Staff Liaison
The Rev. Duane Miller, 2018 Assembly Parliamentarian

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Michael Schmidt
Resolution #1 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly

WHEREAS, in 1970 both the Lutheran Church in America and American Lutheran Church in their national conventions voted to ordain women; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) rejoices in these actions of its predecessor church bodies and will recognize the 50th anniversary in 2020 of the ordination of women; and

WHEREAS, we express our profound gratitude for the many and varied ways the gifts of ordained women have advanced God’s mission through this church; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA’s Faith and Society is working on a Social Statement on Women and Justice.¹

WHEREAS, we learned in the research² related to the 45th anniversary of women’s ordination of some progress but also significant disparities and discriminatory experiences for women in the areas of preparation for ministry, all calls for ministry including first calls, mobility, compensation, ministry roles, and debt following seminary education some particularly acute for ordained women of color; therefore, be it the

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to urge synods and synodical bishops to include celebration and special recognition of ordained women in their 2020 synod assemblies upon the 50th anniversary of authorizing this ordination practice;

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to urge the seminaries, colleges, campus ministries, outdoor ministry organizations, synods, and congregations of the ELCA, to highlight women preachers, teachers, and speakers throughout 2020 in recognition of the diversity of the gifts the ordination of women has brought to this church;

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to urge the Office of the Presiding Bishop to develop worship resource materials for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the ordination of women in the ELCA;

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to urge congregations throughout the ELCA to participate in the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in our church through worship services, bible studies and other efforts to celebrate and recognize the importance and contributions of ordained women;

¹ http://elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/~/link.aspx?_id=76B65AF89F3C46F3BFCC5F50CF097A1E&_z=z
² http://search.elca.org/Pages/Results.aspx?k=45th+anniversary+of+women%27s+ordination
RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to urge 1517 Media, and all ELCA publications, to plan features in 2020 on the ordination of women;

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly encourage its congregations to study the draft Social Statement on Women and Justice, providing feedback for ELCA Faith and Society;

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to request the Office of the Presiding Bishop to provide updated research in 2025 on all matters pertinent to the full and just participation of ordained women in this church;

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to invite the prayers of all members of this church for the successful outcome of these initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverence Kathryn Franzenburg

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommends adoption.
Resolution #2 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in 2005 established an initiative, “Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land,” with three components—Awareness Building, Accompaniment and Advocacy—which seeks “peace with Justice for both Palestinians and Israelis and the continuation of the Christian witness in the Holy Land;”¹ and

WHEREAS, the ELCA, in its Social Statement “For Peace in God’s World” has committed to promote respect for human rights, especially for “groups most susceptible to violations, especially all minorities, women, and children;”² and

WHEREAS, the ELCA is in relationship with six Lutheran congregation in the Bethlehem area, Ramallah, and Jerusalem (the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL,); and

WHEREAS, Israel operates two separate and unequal legal systems in the same territory. Military law has applied to Palestinians in the West Bank since 1967, when Israeli forces occupied the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. Jewish settlers, however, who reside within the bounds of the occupied West Bank, in violation of international law, are subject to the Israeli civilian legal framework; and

WHEREAS, the Israeli Defense Forces systematically prosecutes children in military courts which lack fundamental fair trial rights and protections; detaining and prosecuting an estimated 500 to 700 Palestinian children in military courts each year³, and

WHEREAS, Palestinian children detained in the Israeli military system commonly report being arrested in the middle of the night and typically arrive to interrogation bound, blindfolded, frightened, and sleep deprived, and often give confessions after verbal abuse, threats, physical and psychological violence that in some cases amount to torture. Israeli military law provides no right to legal counsel during interrogation; in all or nearly all cases, no parents present during interrogation⁴, and

WHEREAS, Israel has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on October 3, 1991, which state in article 37(a) that “no child shall be subject to torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment;”⁵ and

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WHEREAS, after 50 years of Israeli military occupation the situation for children living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (including the West Bank, Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip) continues to deteriorate, making children increasingly vulnerable; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA, to ask its members and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to correspond with the United States President, the United States Department of State, and members of Congress, asking them to urge the State of Israel to:

1) guarantee basic due process rights in the Israeli military system,
2) respect and ensure the absolute prohibition of torture and ill-treatment in accordance with international law, and
3) from the moment of arrest, carry out its operations and procedures in accordance with international juvenile justice standards, specifically the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; and further, urging the President, the State Department, and the Congress to fully implement and enforce its own established law, including the US Foreign Assistance Act, by monitoring and tracking gross human rights violations committed by Israeli armed forces and police and ensuring that the US military and financial assistance is provided to the Government of Israel in accordance with existing US law;

RESOLVED that the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly urge its bishop and members of this synod to advocate with elected officials, encouraging them to:

1) ensure that the United States taxpayer funds, including the over $3 billion annual foreign aid to Israel, do not support military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of Palestinian children in violation of international law, including, but not limited to: cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, stress positions, hooding, death threats, coerced confessions, and denial of parents or legal counsel during interrogations;
2) support legislation that prohibits US foreign aid to be used in ways that violate human rights for Palestinian children, such as H.R. 4391, 115th Congress, which requires the Secretary of State to certify that the United States funds do not support military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of Palestinian children[1], in violation of international law;

RESOLVED that the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly encourage its congregations to learn more about how Israel is spending US foreign aid dollars to oppress the people of the Holy Land, especially Palestinian children, and the treatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention, making use of the ELCA’s partner, Defense for Children International Palestine (DCIP) at their website, [http://www.dci-palestine.org/](http://www.dci-palestine.org/).

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Christine Cowan
On behalf of Southeastern Iowa Synod Peace Not Walls Working Group

The Reference and Counsel forwards to the assembly without recommendation.