

# Marriage Policy Task Force

## Seven Statements

The call process requires that the congregation define itself and its ministries through the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). In light of recent changes in United States law concerning same-gender marriage, it is important that the Ministry Site Profile clarify our congregation's view on marriage. The seven statements below are not intended to debate the law, rather their purpose is to shepherd the conversations that the members of our Triumphant (TLC) community will have. The conversations will serve to guide the call committee in drafting the MSP and the council toward the adoption of a revised marriage policy for TLC.

### **Triumphant's Seven Statements:**

1. We, as members of the Triumphant Lutheran Church community, recognize that issues related to marriage policy can be controversial but we choose to not let this issue divide us.
2. We recognize that we have members that represent the entire spectrum of opinion and bound conscience.
3. We recognize that all members of this community are loved children of God living in the world as both sinner and saint.
4. We recognize that church-wide has written policies and procedures, visions and expectations for rostered leaders, and that no policies or procedures currently published determine policy at congregational level. We recognize that congregational policies and procedures for marriages are to be determined at congregational level.
5. We recognize that no called Pastor of Triumphant Lutheran Church will be compelled to marry couples outside of the policies of this congregation.
6. We recognize that no congregation will be compelled to call a specific pastor outside the procedures of the congregation. We recognize that the congregation calls Pastors and other Rostered leaders that fit the views and needs of the congregation.
7. We choose to be a community who continues to serve Christ and spread the Gospel.

### **Resources to orient us to the conversation**

1. [Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust](#). The ELCA's social policy on human sexuality.
2. [Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust Summary](#). Summary document of the social statement.
3. [Talking together about Tough Social Issues](#). ELCA resource.
4. [Bishop Tiemann's Letter to the Synod](#). Dated June 26, 2015.
5. [Anatomy of a Church](#) curriculum. Developed by Triumphant.
6. [Luther's Works](#). Specifically, *Freedom of a Christian* and *Augsburg Confession*.

## Resources which speak to each statement

### 1. Controversial Issues

- a. Talking together as Christians about Tough Issues. ELCA resource.
- b. Other controversial topics discussed in Scripture: circumcisions, food, women in ministry, slavery, etc.
- c. Luther's *Freedom of a Christian*
- d. Scriptural References: Deuteronomy 5:4-6, Mark 12:28-34, and Matthew 22:34-40.
- e. Gift and Trust Summary: Trust, faithfulness and commitment. (page 1, bullet point 2)

### 2. Spectrum of opinion and bound conscience

- a. Scripture: Bound Conscience - Romans 2:15-16 and Galatians 1:8, Romans 14:17-20; 1 Corinthians 8:10-14, 10:23-30; Galatians 6:2.
- b. Gift and Trust: footnote 26
- c. Gift and Trust: 4 bound-conscience perspectives. (pages 19-21)
- d. Luther's *Apology of the Augsburg Confession*: Article 4 (Justification), Article 5 (Office of Ministry), Article 6 (New Obedience)
- e. Luther's *Augsburg Confession*: Article 20 (Faith and Good Works)

### 3. Sinner and Saint

- a. Romans 5:6-11, 6:1-14, 7:14-25; Galatians (wrestling with law and gospel)
- b. Gift and Trust: Page 3
- c. Luther's *Freedom of a Christian*

### 4. Congregational Policies

- a. Anatomy of the Church: Three Expression of Leadership handout.
- b. Bishop Tiemann's Letter (June 26, 2015)
- c. Luther's *Augsburg Confession*: Article 7.
- d. Visions and Expectations for Rostered Leaders. ELCA resource.
- e. ELCA Website on Social Statements

5. Pastors and policies
  - a. Gift and Trust: Bound Conscience (pages 19-21)
  - b. Gift and Trust: Discretion of a Pastor (page 15-16)
  
6. Calling Pastors
  - a. Anatomy of the Church: Basic Call Process handout
  - b. Bishop Tiemann's Letter: Paragraph 3
  
7. Continue serving
  - a. Lutheran Book of Worship: Baptismal promises (pgs 227-228) and Marriage vows (pg 287)
  - b. Luther's *Apology*: Article 7-8; lines 20, 28
  - c. Gift and Trust: Justified by grace through faith (page 2)
  - d. Gift and Trust: Page 24 – Paragraph 5
  - e. Tough Social Issues: Page 16