

MEMORIAL: Minnesota District Convention – 2012
REFERENCE: Unpublished Memorial from Christian Life Ministries – Little Canada, MN
SUBJECT: Proposed District Response to 2012 Minnesota Marriage Amendment Issue

- WHEREAS 1) the WELS properly has long refrained from speaking to or intruding on political or legislative matters in state, federal or local issues out of respect for the "Two Kingdoms" principle, as well as to avoid disruption within our churches where differences of opinion can be expected when clear scriptural principles are not at stake; and
- WHEREAS 2) in recent times both state and federal interests increasingly appear to be ready to move against some of the most basic teachings, practices, and consciences of people and their church bodies, including areas where scriptural principles are clear, causing a variety of Christians to speak out in opposition to perceived infringements of their constitutional First Amendment rights as well as to violations of conscience; and
- WHEREAS 3) there may be confusion in the public mind in addition to our own people as to where we as Lutherans stand on certain scripturally supported issues as a result of repeated news reports about confused "Lutheran" groups voting to support or oppose certain matters of public policy where there is limited or no scriptural warrant; and
- WHEREAS 4) the WELS and its leaders on occasion have spoken out in the past in regard to scripturally clear issues of public policy that directly impact the lives of its people as well as the ability of a church body to operate according to conscience (e.g.: 1979 - abortion; 2011 - abortion; 2012 - Pres. Schroeder on religious liberty in health care matters and need for WELS people to speak out); and
- WHEREAS 5) the proposed Marriage Amendment in Minnesota to be decided upon in Nov. of 2012 appears to be consistent with clear scriptural teaching on God's will for man and woman in marriage (Gen. 2:24; Mat. 19:4-5); and
- WHEREAS 6) this Amendment could help to forestall significant legal problems that might befall the Church and its people should the state judiciary choose to declare present legislation on the matter to be "unconstitutional;" therefore, be it
- Resolved, a) that the Minnesota District of the WELS take note of the concern expressed by many WELS pastors, leaders, and membership on this 2012 Marriage Amendment subject; and be it further
- Resolved, b) that our churches and leaders use the months ahead as a "teachable moment" to encourage greater study of what God in his Word says is his will for man and woman in marriage, utilizing resources available from various WELS sources, CLR, and others; and be it further
- Resolved, c) that we call on our membership in the state of Minnesota (and beyond) to individually speak out clearly, based on scriptural teaching, to God's will in marriage, and in Minnesota particularly to its apparent application to the Marriage Amendment issue of 2012; and be it further
- Resolved, d) that we find that the thrust of the 2012 proposed Marriage Amendment ("Shall the Minnesota Constitution be revised so that only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota?") is in harmony with clear scripture, especially as it points to marriage as consisting of "one man and one woman"; and be it finally
- Resolved, e) that we take this and any other opportunity to uphold the truth of Scripture pertaining to God's will for man and woman in marriage.

Christian Life Ministries Board of Control
Richard Ericson, Chairman
Rev. Jonathan Leach, Member of Board
Rev. A. Lemke, Director of Education