



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dear Zion Partner;

The Congregation Council has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, May 2, at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting will be to vote again on this issue. The Congregation Council believes that the December 13 vote was valid and that the resolution passed by a 2/3 majority as required by the Zion Constitution. However, the Congregation Council met recently with the Bishop on this matter and he does not agree it was a valid vote, and therefore does not feel he can enter into the process of consultation called for by our constitution. The disagreement centers on the number of voting partners present during the vote and the final ballot count. In order to make it possible to proceed with the consultation with the Bishop and to clear up any ambiguity or uncertainty about this vote we are asking Zion partners to vote on this issue again. Our hope is this vote will clear up any uncertainties in the mind of the Bishop or anyone else, and provide clear direction for Zion's future.

The May 2 meeting will be different from the December 13 meeting in that there will be no debate or speaking, just a voting process on the resolution. At the meeting partners will be directed to come forward to be counted in order to determine the number present. Any who do not come forward as directed will not be considered present for the purposes of the 2/3 vote needed. When partners are counted they will be given a ballot and given an opportunity to vote. The number of partners present will be announced before the vote tally begins and 2/3 of those counted present will be required to pass the resolution in keeping with our constitutional requirements.

If the resolution is passed by a 2/3 majority then we will enter the consultation process and move on to a final vote later in the summer at which time we will determine with which Lutheran group we wish to affiliate. We realize this process will take longer, but we ask all Zion partners to be patient in the interests of having a clear outcome and future for Zion.

The Congregation Council has begun a 40 day period of prayer in anticipation of the May 2 meeting, and is asking all Zion partners to participate in this period of prayer. All Zion partners want God's will to prevail and so we ask that we each pray for God's will to be known and done by every partner.

We trust that Zion partners will be patient and honor this procedure which is intended to give us a clear and unquestioned decision by the congregation about the future to Zion.

The Congregation Council

A Resolution To End Denominational Ties With The ELCA

(Unanimously presented and recommended by the Congregation Council to a special congregation meeting of Zion Lutheran Church, Clear Lake, Iowa, 2 May 2010.)

Whereas Zion has a history and heritage that has consistently affirmed the authority of scripture as the norm for faith and life, and recognized the Lutheran Confessions as a tested and valid interpretation of scripture, and is committed to maintaining this true Lutheran identity, and

Whereas we seek to follow the Bible's teaching for times of testing when people turn away from the truth of God's word. "I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he appears to set up his Kingdom: Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths." (2 Timothy 4:1-5), and

Whereas Zion welcomes all people without exception, understanding that we are all sinners in need of God's grace and forgiveness. We support and encourage each other as we seek God's intention for our lives as it is revealed in the Bible, and

Whereas Zion recognizes that only God's love is perfect and no human love is without defect or

selfish desire we trust God's judgment and His will as revealed in the Bible as the only perfect standard of what is truly loving and caring for all people, and

Whereas Zion can retain strong ties and provide financial support to Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Services in Iowa, and other Lutheran and Christian missions both domestically and internationally without being a part of the ELCA, and

Whereas the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) this past summer took unprecedented action to recognize and support homosexual unions, and provide for the ordination of practicing homosexuals in opposition to the word of God revealed in the Bible and the teaching of the Lutheran Church contained in the *Lutheran Confessions*, and

Whereas the ELCA has through its history progressively diluted Lutheran tradition by co-mingling with other non-Lutheran denominations and changing traditional Lutheran teaching on the office of the ministry, the interpretation of the Bible, and the principles of Law and Gospel, and

Whereas Zion partners have asked not to have their offerings support the recent policies and actions of the ELCA, and

Whereas Zion partners have expressed a strong desire to focus on our mission and ministry moving past the current controversy, which will perpetuate indefinitely with continued affiliation with the ELCA.

Now therefore be it resolved,

that Zion Lutheran Church, Clear Lake, Iowa end its denominational affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and Zion's governing documents be amended to reflect this action.

Be it further resolved that we take this action without rancor, resentment, or ill will toward the ELCA, but trusting in the Holy Spirit to bless those who are faithful to the Word of God.