

Responsibilities and Goals of the *Ad Hoc* Committee to consider sexual orientation issues

WHEREAS, at its meeting on December 15, 2015, the Church Council approved formation of an *ad hoc* committee consisting of nine people to consider issues related to differing sexual orientation; in forming this *ad hoc* committee, the Council recognized that the subject matter is one on which people of good will disagree, sometimes strongly, and the *ad hoc* committee must be sensitive to that disagreement.

WHEREAS, the Church Council resolution also appointed Jeff Cribbs, Al Swanson, and Craig Mindrum as a subcommittee of the Council to propose to the Council the responsibilities and goals for the committee as well as names for the nine members, including a chair person, of the *ad hoc* committee.

WHEREAS the subcommittee has considered the presentations at two adult education programs and the comments interested people expressed at meetings convened on December 1, 2015, by then-Congregation President Jeff Wood and on January 12, 2016, by Pastor David Lyle and additional comments presented in conversations with members of the Congregation.

Therefore, working with the involvement of the pastoral staff and utilizing any resources the *Ad Hoc* Committee may deem appropriate, the Council's charge to the *Ad Hoc* Committee is to:

- Adopt a name for itself that is consistent with its responsibility and inform the Council of that name within sixty days hereof;
- Assess how Grace currently includes and ministers to members of the LGBTQ¹ communities and assess where the Congregation now stands on the issues of sexuality, sexual orientation, and related issues by speaking with any and all people it wishes. Any survey of members of the congregation or of Grace School families shall be conducted only with the concurrence of the Senior Pastor. The Committee shall not take a poll or vote of members of the Grace congregation or of families of Grace School students;
- Develop ways to engage the Grace community in caring, non-confrontational, non-personal, and respectful dialogs to foster open communication in the exploration of the issues;
- Create scriptural, theological and scientific study opportunities for the Congregation as appropriate to enhance understanding of LGBTQ issues, the relationship between Grace and the LGBTQ communities and how this informs our ministry programs;
- Explore how other similar Lutheran congregations have approached and dealt with these issues and the results from those efforts;
- Recommend, if the Committee deems it appropriate, options, alternatives, or programs for ministry to be inclusive that would enhance connections between Grace and the LGBTQ communities that are consistent with Grace's confessions of faith;
- Consider the impact of any proposals on Grace Lutheran Church, its school, and on the relationships of Grace to the community, and other churches and congregations;

¹ Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning/Queer

- Report periodically and in any manner it deems appropriate to the Church Council; and, after collaboration with the pastor, communicate with the congregation the Committee's activities.

In carrying out its duties, the Committee shall have available to it the facilities of Grace Lutheran Church. If the Committee plans any programs for the adult education hour, it should coordinate, in a spirit of collegiality, with the Adult Education Committee to, as much as possible, avoid competing with scheduled adult education programs. Any expenditure of monies shall be subject to the approval of the Church Council.

Unless the Council extends the Committee, it shall be dissolved upon presentation of its final report to the Council at or before the Council's September 2017 meeting.

Adopted by the Church Council February 16, 2016.