



Resolutions and Memorials

What are Memorials and Resolutions?

Memorials and resolutions are one way this church addresses broad policy issues or important issues for God's mission in the world. Memorials address broad policy issues; resolutions have a narrower focus, requesting consideration or action by individual offices or units, or the Church Council (a resolution can be the preferred method when an issue requires a timely response). The churchwide organization and synods of the ELCA use a process to bring forth memorials and resolutions.

About Memorials and Resolutions

As noted in the 2023 Rules of Assembly, all memorials and resolutions must be reviewed by the bishop before being submitted and are due before April 1st, 2023 at 10pm.

Memorials or resolutions should:

- Be on a topic necessary to the life of the ministry of this church
- Be directed to the appropriate body that has the authority to do what is requested: Synod Council, Church Council, Churchwide Assembly, or a churchwide organization unit.
- Use non-inflammatory and non-argumentative language with straightforward nouns and verbs.

And a few important considerations:

- A resolution and memorial may not be combined into one action
- A resolution or memorial that conflicts with the governing documents of this church cannot be considered
- A resolution or memorial can request action from the body, but cannot direct it
- Memorials and resolutions often require valuable resources (financial and staff) to bring to fruition, so careful consideration of whether to bring forth a resolution or memorial, clear proposed action, a complete estimation of

financial implications, and unambiguous, accurate and concise wording are critical. Resolutions or memorials may not be able to be supported for budgetary reasons, that if adopted, may have adverse consequences on existing programs or ministries.

As an example of the potential financial resources needed; to bring a memorial to fruit as a social statement in 2019 was a five-year process at a cost of \$300,000. An edit of a memorial is \$50,000-\$100,000 depending on the work needed for the edit.

If questions exist regarding the potential implications of a proposed resolution or memorial, inquiries to the Office of the Secretary are encouraged.

What is the Difference Between a Memorial and a Resolution?

Resolutions	Memorials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have a narrower focus - Request consideration or action by the Synod Council to churchwide organization units or the Church Council (churchwide) - Allows for a more timely response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address broad policy issues - Are considered for action every three years by the Churchwide Assembly - Comes from Synod Assembly to Churchwide Assembly
<p><i>They address different issues, different bodies, and on different timelines.</i></p>	

Drafting a Memorial or Resolution

The first section is whereas clauses (if any)

- Whereas clauses provide background information and are not part of the action. Each clause should state a reason for the resolution or memorial.
- Whereas clauses should be used sparingly and only in cases where it provides little-known information without which the point or the merits of a resolution are likely to be poorly understood. It is encouraged to submit just

the resolved clauses as the resolved clauses contain the action for consideration.

This is followed by resolved clauses

- Resolved clauses must clearly and concisely state the desired action.
 - o What should be done?
 - o How should it be done?
 - o Who should do it? (CW Assembly, Church council, Synod Council OR Churchwide assembly unit).
 - o When should it be done? Timeline

The final “resolved” clause(s) asks the Synod Council or Churchwide Assembly to act (or refrain from acting) in a particular way. For example:

In a Resolution

RESOLVED, that the Oregon Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and possible action.

Or

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council request the Church Council to ... [clearly describe the proposed course of action].

In a Memorial

RESOLVED, that the Oregon Synod Assembly memorialize the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to ... [clearly describe the proposed course of action].

As a reminder, all memorials and resolutions must be examined for potential financial and staff impacts, and include a summary of these implications when submitted.

After a Draft Memorial or Resolution is Submitted

All resolutions and memorials, including those submitted past the deadline, those not recommended, and the original text of modified ones submitted, will be included in the participant materials.

If the proposed resolution/memorial is not in proper format or has deficiencies in context, the writer will be invited to rewrite it before it is considered further.

Resolutions and Memorials Submitted by the Deadline

The 2023 Rules of Assembly provide that memorials and resolutions reviewed by the bishop and submitted by the due date in advance of assembly will be reviewed by the Reference and Counsel Committee. There will be a two-week optional editing period with all submitted memorials and resolutions considered in final forms as of 10pm on April 15th. The committee will decide whether to recommend the resolution or memorial should go to the assembly to be voted upon.

What will the Reference and Counsel Committee or Synod Council be considering as they evaluate memorials or resolutions?

- Did the bishop review the resolution or memorial before submission?
- Does the proposed resolution address a synod purpose (as listed in Chapter 7 of the Oregon Synod Constitution), ministry, administrative matter, or other issue affecting the Oregon Synod?
- Is action on the resolution necessary to the business of the synod (rather than merely bringing the Assembly's attention to an issue, organization, or an event)?
- Is the action sought by the resolution consistent with the Oregon Synod constitution, bylaws and other governing documents?
- Is the form of the resolution appropriate and clearly drafted?
- Are the statements in the resolution accurate and necessary to an understanding of the resolution?

Resolutions and Memorials NOT submitted by the Deadline

Any resolutions and memorials submitted after 10 p.m. 3/4/2022 will be considered "from the floor" and in addition to the standard criteria, must meet additional criteria to be brought before the assembly.

- ☑ It will have no financial impact
- ☑ It is of overriding importance
- ☑ It addresses a previously accepted resolution

Based on the above criteria, the Reference and Council Committee will take a vote whether to refer, consider, or do not consider the memorial or resolution based on a 2/3 majority vote.

Any memorial or resolution which either Synod Council or the Reference and Council Committee recommends to be considered will be brought forward by the Reference and Council Committee Chair for the body to vote on at the Synod Assembly.