

The following Declaration on Same Gendered Relationships and Rostered Ministry and Blessing of Same Gendered Unions is suitable for adoption by a Congregation Council or at a Congregational Meeting. It does not need to become a constitutional provision or bylaw; but will act as a Continuing Resolution, in effect until it is lifted by the Council or congregation. To adopt it, please fill in the blank with the congregation's name and be sure to publicize in your congregation's newsletter.

After adopted, please sign at the bottom and send a copy of the Declaration to the synod office for your congregational file. The address is: NT-NL Synod, P. O. Box 560587, Dallas, TX 75356.

**Declaration Regarding Same Gendered Relationships and Rostered Ministry at \_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church**

\_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church, as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, understands that it has the right to call, or refuse to call, as a pastor or rostered lay leader any person who is on the roster of ordained ministers or lay rosters or any candidate approved for those rosters.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church, in accordance with the 2009 Churchwide Assembly which resolved that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America "make provision in its policies to recognize the conviction of members who believe that this church should not call or roster people in a publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationship," declares that this congregation will not call a pastor or lay rostered leader who is or intends to be in such a same-gender relationship.

*The following provision also could be added:*

\_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church declares that marriages, civil unions, or blessings of persons in same gender relationships will not be performed in this church building or authorized by this congregation.

\_\_\_\_\_ Congregational President's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date