

## Policy Resolution Relating to Same Gender Marriage and Leadership

### **Background:**

For over a decade, the Prince of Peace community has been in dialogue on issues of sexuality—and its relationship to marriage and leadership. In early 2013, the Minnesota legislature passed a law legalizing same-gender marriage. Shortly thereafter, we, as the Prince of Peace board of directors, committed ourselves to a process of discernment—seeking to determine how our faith community would best respond to this change. After much prayerful discernment, the board of directors approved the following resolution in June of 2014. Please feel free to reach out to the board of directors or executive team with any questions you may have.

### **Resolution:**

- **Whereas** we recognize the diversity of perspectives among the people of Prince of Peace on the issue of sexual orientation--and we respect and value each member of our community.
- **Whereas** we have thoughtfully discerned and sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we explore these issues in the context of our Prince of Peace community.
- **Whereas** we recognize people with strongly held positions on both sides of the issue seek God's will and seek to love God with their whole heart.
- **Whereas** we believe there is more than enough room in the Prince of Peace community for people who hold widely divergent perspectives on this and other important social issues. Our unity is in Jesus, and is rooted in God's profound love and grace extended to each of us.
- **Whereas** we affirm the guiding vision of Prince of Peace, articulated in our "What We Believe" statements. In particular, we affirm the following statements:
  - *We believe that God is love and has created all things in love and for love. God exists in loving community as Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, and draws us into relationship with God, one another and the world.*
  - *We believe that the Bible is the inspired witness of God's people throughout history. We believe that the Bible is true primarily in the sense that it truly points to Jesus, the Truth, who is the Word of God incarnate. While God speaks to us through the written word, Jesus is the Living Word. We read the bible through the lens of Gospel, God's Good News for all people.*
  - *Empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit we are called to love, worship and glorify God, and proclaim God's love and forgiveness in word and deed. In each and every role of life – friend, employee, family member, citizen, neighbor – we are called to be about God's mission, revealing the Kingdom of God, proclaiming the Gospel and partnering with God in the work of reconciliation.*
- **Therefore**, we as the board of directors of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church resolve that all people, regardless of sexual orientation, shall be entitled to participate fully in the life of the church, share all rites and sacraments—including marriage—and be considered for any staff or lay leadership position.