

1 **NC 16.05 revised HOUSE BILL 2 RESOLUTION FOR NC SYNOD OF THE ELCA**

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3 **WHEREAS** we are compelled by the most fundamental principles and commandments of our faith
4 exemplified in life and teachings of Jesus; and

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6 **WHEREAS** the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America social statement *The Church in Society: a*
7 *Lutheran Perspective (1991)* affirms our calling, which includes being “committed to defend human
8 dignity, to stand with poor and powerless people, to advocate justice;...to remove obstacles of
9 discrimination and indifference; ...to be critical when groups of people are inadequately represented in
10 political processes and decisions that affect their lives; and speak out on timely, urgent issues on which
11 the voice of this church should be heard”; and

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13 **WHEREAS** the ELCA Social Statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust (2009)* states: “While
14 Lutherans hold various convictions regarding lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships, this
15 church is united on many critical issues. It opposes all forms of verbal or physical harassment and
16 assault based on sexual orientation. It supports legislation and policies to protect civil rights and to
17 prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, and public services. It has called upon congregations
18 and members to welcome, care for, and support same-gender couples and their families and to
19 advocate for their legal protection.”; and

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21 **WHEREAS** the ELCA Social Statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust (2009)* states: “This church
22 also will attend to the need for equal protection, equal opportunities, and equal responsibilities under
23 the law, and just treatment for those with varied sexual orientation and gender identity. Such individuals
24 are disproportionately and negatively affected by patterns of stigma, discrimination, and abuse.”; and

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26 **WHEREAS** House Bill 2 discriminates against the working poor by taking away municipalities’ ability to
27 demand that contractors raise minimum wages to living wages; and

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29 **WHEREAS** House Bill 2 prevents local governments from enacting laws that respond to the concerns
30 of their constituents; and

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32 **WHEREAS** House Bill 2 discriminates in housing, employment and other areas on the bases of age,
33 sex, religion, national origin, race, class, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity because it
34 takes away the ability of North Carolinians to file discrimination cases in state courts; and

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36 **WHEREAS** House Bill 2 targets and discriminates against the LGBTQ community and creates a hostile
37 community atmosphere;

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39 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:**

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- 41 • the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America meeting in Assembly
42 call upon North Carolina state legislators, the speaker, the president pro tem and the governor
43 to repeal House Bill 2; and
 - 44 • the North Carolina Synod meeting in Assembly encourage its congregations and its members
45 also to call for the repeal of House Bill 2; and
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 - 47 • the North Carolina Synod meeting in Assembly urge the bishop of the synod, or his designee, to
48 make the synod’s position on this matter known throughout the synod and to the public at large;
49 and
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 - 51 • the North Carolina Synod meeting in Assembly call upon our synod leaders, pastors and
52 congregations to welcome, diversity and defend equal protection under our laws for all, and that
53 we commit ourselves to walking in the Way of Jesus—the way of radical compassion,
54 embracing all people within God’s reign of justice.

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56 NC Synod Justice and Advocacy Committee: Cuttino Alexander, Beth Blackwood, Michael Dickson,
57 Laura Foust, Ginny Hultquist, Deb Johnson, GeoRene Jones, Jim Killacky, Nancy Kraft, Brenda
58 Linales, David Sloop, Linda Warren