

Dear

I am writing to express my deep concern and disappointment with the recent decisions made at the church-wide assembly in Minneapolis. Much good was accomplished there I know, but it was all overshadowed by the vote to allow openly gay persons to serve as pastors in the church. This is contradicted by the clear word of Scripture, as well as 2000 years of Christian faith and practice, and I urge the church to repent and return to its Lord.

All are welcome in the church of Jesus Christ, including those who are gay. "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God," so no one of us is any better than anyone else. But all of us who are redeemed by Christ are called to walk in newness of life, including especially the pastors chosen to lead us.

We therefore reject the direction taken at the church-wide assembly, and urge you again to take the steps necessary to overturn this decision as soon as possible.

Yours in Christ,

1. Bishop Mark Hanson
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois
60631

2. Bishop Marcus Lohrmann
Northwestern Ohio Synod, ELCA
621 Bright Road
Findlay, Ohio
45840

3. Mr. David D. Swartling
Office of the Secretary, ELCA
8765 West Higgins Hill Road
Chicago, Illinois
60631