

Bristol Lutheran Church Resolution on Same-Sex Marriage

WHEREAS, the ELCA in its 2009 social statement on sexuality allows each congregation as part of our “bound conscience” to discern our position on issues such as this, and

WHEREAS, Bristol Lutheran Church’s constitution asks its pastor to perform weddings, and does not indicate that anyone be excluded from marriage, only requiring approval from the council, and

WHEREAS, the community of Bristol Lutheran Church has a long history of supporting, welcoming, and accepting same-sex individuals, couples, musicians, pastors, and allows for gay singles and couples, married or unmarried, to be full members in the community, and

WHEREAS, this specific congregation wishes to better define its identity and message of hospitality, love, and welcome to all members of God’s family, including gay and lesbian, and

WHEREAS, community members of Bristol Lutheran Church met to discuss, share thoughts, and give voice in an open forum in the summer of 2014, with a majority of voices supporting same-sex marriage,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that Bristol Lutheran Church adopt this resolution to affirm the marriage blessing of same-sex couples, weddings of same-sex couples, both onsite and offsite, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the pastor(s) at Bristol Lutheran Church will work with same-sex couples in marriage preparation as s/he would any couple, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bristol Lutheran Church will support its pastor(s) in the marrying of same-sex couples, offering God’s blessing and the congregation’s blessing and support upon the relationship, legal rulings notwithstanding, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that above all, we are a community that shares our differences with love and respect, so that we can live, work and serve God together, worshiping the One who makes us one.

Respectfully submitted by Bristol Lutheran Church Council on behalf of the congregation.