



## Resolution 04-07-25

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- SUBJECT:** To Direct The Office of the National and International Mission to Decline Applications for Recognized Service Organization Status from Organizations Currently Supporting, Advocating, or Otherwise Promoting the LGBTQIA+ Agenda and Lifestyle and to direct The Office of National Missions and The Office of International Mission to Revoke RSO Status of the Same  
(Reference Overture(s) 04-09-25 and 04-10-25 printed on pages 207-214)
- WHEREAS,** Since before the fall into sin, God created human being's male and female, (Genesis 1:27); and
- WHEREAS,** Since before the fall into sin, God gave man and woman to be husband and wife, (Genesis 2:24); and
- WHEREAS,** After the fall into sin, God reiterates that he still gives man and woman to be husband and wife in marriage, (Mathew 19:5, Mark 10:7, Ephesians 5:31); and
- WHEREAS,** Sin is anything that goes contrary to God's purpose and design, (1 John 5:17); and
- WHEREAS,** Our country has adopted policies and practices that uphold, promote, and uplift LGBTQIA+ positions on gender, sexuality, and marriage that are contrary to God's design and are therefore sinful according to God's Word, (e.g. ruling that marriage is no longer exclusively the lifelong union of one man and one woman); and
- WHEREAS,** The LGBTQIA+ community is supported, uplifted, and celebrated at many times and places (e.g. Pride month, Pride parades, etc.); and
- WHEREAS,** The Christian is called to not follow in the deeds of darkness, but rather, is to lead a holy and God-pleasing life, (Ephesians 5:11; 1 Peter 2:9); and
- WHEREAS,** Such a God-pleasing life does not seek to remain in sin nor to celebrate it, but repents of it, receives forgiveness for it, and strives to sin no more, (Romans 6:1-2, Psalm 32:5, John 8:11); and
- WHEREAS,** The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) published a report on marriage and sexuality entitled *A Chaste and Decent Life: An Update to Human Sexuality* (1981) which concludes that, "attitudes towards gender identity and



dysphoria, homosexuality and homosexual marriage, and societal pressures regarding sexuality, among others, have changed markedly in the last forty years,” yet still maintaining that “God’s intention for human sexuality does not change,” (*A Chaste and Decent Life: An Update*, 37); and

- WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) has upheld and reaffirmed such positions regarding Marriage and Sexuality, as recently as the 2023 Synod Convention, (Resolution 5-11, “To Reaffirm Synod's Biblical Positions on Marriage and Sexuality”); and
- WHEREAS,** The granting of Recognized Service Organization (RSO) status by the Synod “signifies that a service organization fosters the mission and ministry of the church, engages in program activity that extends the mission and ministry of the Synod, is in harmony with the programs of the Synod, and respects and does not act contrary to the doctrine and practice of the Synod,” (Bylaw 6.2.1); and
- WHEREAS,** Many resources from the Synod and its partners (LCEF, Concordia Plans, etc.) are made available to the RSOs of the Synod to support their work; and
- WHEREAS,** The Office of National Mission (ONM) and the Office of International Mission (OIM) are tasked with the granting of RSO status, (Bylaw 6.2.4); and
- WHEREAS,** Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) and Lutheran Social Services of Northern California (LSSNorCA) have both been granted RSO status; and
- WHEREAS,** LCSNW, as recently as June of 2024, participated in an annual Pride Parade in Spokane, WA “as they do every year” in an effort to make their communities “more healthy, just, hopeful and [sic] *Prideful* for all,” (“Pride is more than a month at LCSNW; it’s a mindset to serve LGBTQ clients”, accessed October 1, 2024, <https://www.lcsnw.org/2024/06/pride-is-more-than-a-month>), and
- WHEREAS,** LSSNorCA stands with the LGBTQIA+ community and proudly supports them, as stated in a 2023 letter from the President and CEO of the LSSNorCA, (“Statement on LGBTQIA+ Pride”, accessed October 1, 2024, <https://www.lssnorcal.org/filedownload/b8699925-8345-437f-8cda-dad7d95d3d77>), therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That LCSNW and LSSNorCA be immediately removed by the Synod in Convention of their RSO status; and be it further



**RESOLVED,**

That the members of Synod support and encourage their respective District Presidents as they go about their task given them in Bylaw 6.2.1.c of overseeing the RSOs under their ecclesiastical supervision; and be it further

**RESOLVED,**

That the Office of the Secretary of Synod declines any applications for RSO status received from any organization supporting, uplifting, celebrating, or otherwise promoting LGBTQIA+ groups, agendas, thoughts, ideas, ideals, etc., including organizations seeking RSO status that are partnered with an organization supporting, advocating, or otherwise promoting the same; and be it further

**RESOLVED,**

That the ONM and OIM do not grant or renew RSO status to any organization supporting, uplifting, celebrating, or otherwise promoting LGBTQIA+ groups, agendas, thoughts, ideas, ideals, etc., including organizations seeking RSO status that are partnered with an organization supporting, uplifting, celebrating, or otherwise promoting LGBTQIA+ groups, agendas, thoughts, ideas, ideals, etc.; and be it further

**RESOLVED,**

That Bylaw 6.2.3 be amended as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

6.2.3 Program administration shall be carried out by the Offices of National and International Mission according to these bylaws, and according to policies and criteria developed by the Synod Board of Directors, mission boards, and mission offices. (a) The Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod shall adopt common policies and criteria for granting of recognized service organization status by Synod's mission offices, such policies relating to expectations for the corporate structure and governance of the organizations, statements regarding their legal and corporate independence from the Synod, and the necessary relation of their work to the mission and ministry of the Synod as generally expressed in its Constitution and Bylaws. These policies shall include an agreement with the recognized service organization stating that they adopt and will uphold the biblical definition of manhood, womanhood, and marriage, as adopted by the Synod and that they will not endorse, support the work of, nor enter into partnerships with other organizations who either undermine or do not uphold the same. The Board of Directors shall approve the standard form of agreement to be entered into by the Synod and each recognized service organization; and be it further



That Bylaw 6.2.4 be amended as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

6.2.4 Subject to policies adopted by the Synod's Board of Directors and the respective mission board, recognized service organization status may be granted and revoked by the Office of National Mission or the Office of International Mission to a service organization (other than an auxiliary) that extends the mission and ministry of the Synod but is not part of the Synod as defined by its Constitution and Bylaws.

(a) Applications for recognized service organization status shall be made to the Office of the Secretary of the Synod, which will facilitate the application as follows:

(4) Decline applications for RSO status from organizations currently supporting, uplifting, celebrating, or otherwise promoting groups, agendas, thoughts, ideas, ideals, etc. contrary to God's design for man and woman as well as declining applications from organizations seeking RSO status that are partnered with the same.

(b) Within the area of its responsibility and in accordance with policies and criteria developed by the Synod Board of Directors, the respective mission board and office, each mission office shall determine to which organizations recognized service organization status will be granted and revoked.

*Note: There didn't seem to be any readily and speedily available mechanism in the Handbook for removal of RSOs who do not continue to live up to the RSO status. This overture would specifically empower ONM and OIM to revoke RSO status. In addition, it would allow the Office of National and International Mission to vet out most of the problematic RSO applications at the front end. Since the granting of RSO status involves application and reapplication every 5 years, the proposed bylaw changes should cover any removals that need to happen within 5 years.*

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Rev. Kevin Conger

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Mathew Pitsch