

**ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE TENTH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION (2017)  
WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

**Board recommendation: Doctrine of Discovery**

- Memorial 1: Supporting the TDTR Network**
- Memorial 2: Supporting the TDTR Network**
- Memorial 3: Regarding tainted water in Flint, Michigan**
- Memorial 4: Regarding the size of synodical boards**
- Memorial 5: Condemning all forms of corporal punishment**
- Memorial 6: Regarding domestic abuse and violence and its prevention**
- Memorial 7: Regarding Bible Women ministry of India**

- Resolution 2017:01: Act to end Human Trafficking**
- Resolution 2017.02: Go green 2020**
- Resolution 2017.03: Engage Women of the ELCA in supporting leadership needs in the ELCA**
- Resolution 2017.04: Supporting a responsible energy future and care for creation**
- Resolution 2017.05: Number of board members**

**Board recommendation: Doctrine of Discovery**

The churchwide executive board recommended and the convention adopted:

1. Affirmed the ELCA's repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery;
2. Encouraged participants and leaders within all expressions of this organization to educate themselves about this important statement and how to reduce the negative impact of the Doctrine of Discovery and its consequences of Native people in North America, using resources to be developed by the ELCA Domestic Mission unit; and
3. Encourage all synodical women's organizations to develop relationships with American Indians and/or Alaskan Native ministries with or near their synods.

The convention voted: 283 aye, 13 no.

*Executive director's note: for further information regarding the Doctrine of Discovery, go to [elca.org](http://elca.org) and use the search tool, typing in "Doctrine of Discovery."*

### **Memorials 1 & 2: Supporting the TDTR network**

On the matter of providing support to the Today's Dream: Tomorrow's Reality network, the Memorials Committee's recommendation of a substitute memorial was defeated and the original memorials are being sent to the churchwide executive board because they have financial implications.

The convention voted: 129 aye, 169 no.

### **Memorial 3: Regarding tainted water in Flint, Michigan**

On the matter of tainted water in Flint, Michigan, the Memorials Committee recommended adoption of this resolution as amended (amendments are in **bold**).

RESOLVED that Women of the ELCA and congregational units, individuals and churches affirm this need [for clean and potable water] and be encouraged to act upon it by raising awareness and/or offering tangible support to the people of Flint, Michigan, and

**Be it further resolved that synodical women's organization presidents will report to the 2019 Conference of Presidents the actions taken.**

The convention voted: 270 aye, 28 no.

### **Memorial 4: Regarding the size of synodical boards**

On the matter of reducing the size of synodical boards, the Memorials Committee recommended rejecting the memorial. The convention agreed, affirming the committee's recommendation and rejected this memorial.

The convention voted: 252 aye, 42 no.

**Memorial 5: Condemning all forms of corporal punishment**

On the matter of corporal punishment, the Memorials Committee recommended adoption of this resolution as amended (amendments are in **bold**).

RESOLVED, that the NE IA Women of the ELCA memorialize the Churchwide Women of the ELCA to support the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child by stating clearly that it condemns all forms of corporal punishment of children and be it further,

**RESOLVED that synodical women's organization presidents report to the 2019 Conference of Presidents what they have done to raise awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.**

The convention voted: 270 aye, 28 no.

**Memorial 6: Regarding domestic abuse and violence and its prevention**

Regarding domestic abuse and violence and its prevention, the Memorials Committee recommended adoption of this resolution as amended (amendments are in **bold**). The committee's recommendation was further amended on the floor (those amendments are underlined).

RESOLVED that Women of the ELCA recognize domestic abuse and violence as a serious issue in our communities and our churches; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Women of the ELCA educate themselves about the signs of domestic abuse and violence and the services available in the community by inviting shelter workers, social workers, counselors and police officers to speak; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Women of the ELCA be encouraged to act by choosing from the following options:

1. Posting information for local domestic violence hotlines and other hotlines in church restrooms, on bulletin boards, in church newsletters and in other publications,
  - National Domestic Violence Hotline - 1-888-799-SAFE
  - National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline - 1-866-331-9474, loveisrespect.org
  - National Child Abuse Hotline - 1-800-4-A-CHILD
  - National Elder Abuse Hotline - 1-800-677-1116
2. Assisting people in crisis by connecting them with agencies, professionals, and resources,

3. Financially supporting the local domestic abuse and violence shelters and donating items for their “needs list,” such as personal hygiene items, food, clothing, furniture, toys, quilts, and attending their events and fundraisers,
4. Volunteering at a local domestic abuse and violence shelter,
5. Making every ELCA congregation, where possible, a safe space for victims of domestic abuse and violence, and making it known, and
6. Using resources to further educate ourselves about domestic abuse and violence, such as
  - “Ministry with the Abused” ©2010, ELCA, [elca.org/justiceforwomen](http://elca.org/justiceforwomen)
  - [faithtrustinstitute.org](http://faithtrustinstitute.org)
  - National Coalition Against Domestic Violence [ncadv.org](http://ncadv.org)
  - Children’s Defense Fund [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)
  - Turning Point for victims of domestic and sexual assault - River Falls, WI - [turningpont-wi.org](http://turningpont-wi.org)
  - Rachel’s Day; © 2015, Women of the ELCA - [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org)

and

**Be IT FURTHER RESOLVED that synodical women’s organization presidents report at the 2019 Conference of Presidents what they have done to raise awareness of domestic violence.**

The convention voted: 289 aye, 3 no.

### **Memorial 7: Regarding Bible Women ministry of India**

Regarding Bible Women ministry of India, the Memorials Committee recommended adopting this memorial.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the voting members of the Tenth Triennial Convention encourage Women of the ELCA in all its expressions to hold in prayer the Bible Women of India as it ministers to families in India and be it further

Resolved, that the voting members of the Tenth Triennial convention affirm the extraordinary efforts of the Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women’s Organization to support the ministry of the Bible Women of India, and

Be it further Resolved, that the voting members of the 29th Northwest Minnesota Synodical organization memorialize these actions to the 10th Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA.

The convention voted: 270 aye, 28 no.

**Resolution 2017.01: Act to end Human Trafficking**

On the matter of acting to end human trafficking, the Committee on Reference and Counsel recommended amendments to the resolutions (amendments are in **bold**).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that January 11 through February 4, 2018 be established as a time of prayer in the congregations of the ELCA to end human trafficking, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Women of the ELCA work to end human trafficking and support its victims using resources such as ELCA ministry Cherish All Children’s mission model: Pray, Educate, Connect, and Act ([cherishallchildren.org](http://cherishallchildren.org)), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Women of the ELCA educate themselves and others about warning signs that someone may be being trafficked and what to do about it using resources such as Women of the ELCA’s Understanding and Responding to Human Trafficking, the ELCA’s six part Human Trafficking Learning Series for youth and adults, Wisconsin Crime Victims Council 2015 “Ten Things You Can Do Today to help Fight Human Trafficking,” **or your state’s website on Human Trafficking** and the Polaris Project ([polarisproject.org](http://polarisproject.org)), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that women of the ELCA connect with others fighting human trafficking such as local and regional task forces and service groups including Lutheran Social Services, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that synodical women’s organization presidents report what they have done to fight human trafficking and support its victims at the 2019 Conference of Presidents.

The convention voted: 292 aye, 4 no.

**Resolution 2017.02: Go green 2020**

On the matter of “going green,” the Committee on Reference and Counsel combined two resolutions and presented the following text:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that starting at the 2020 triennial convention, participants will be encouraged to bring along their portable devices to download their convention materials;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that starting at the 2020 triennial convention and gathering, the participants will be encouraged to bring reusable coffee mugs and fillable water bottles with them.

The convention voted: 229 aye, 66 no.

**Resolution 2017.03: Engage Women of the ELCA in supporting leadership needs in the ELCA**

On the matter of engaging Women of the ELCA in supporting leadership needs in the ELCA, the Committee on Reference and Counsel recommended the adoption of an amended resolution (amendments are in **bold**). The amended resolution was further amended during debate (those amendments are underlined) and it was adopted.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Women of the ELCA support finding a new way forward for our church as it faces a “retirement tsunami” in the vastly changing landscape of our society by lifting up women who might seek ordination as ministers of word and sacrament and ministers of word and service (i.e., deacons); **and**

BE IT RESOLVED that we call upon Women of the ELCA to pray for God’s guidance and direction in the spirit of All Anew, encouraging women to pursue attendance at seminary for leadership in support of congregations churchwide to fill the needs of our church; **and**

BE IT RESOLVED that Women of the ELCA lift up support for the ELCA Fund for Leaders (FFL), a merit-based scholarship program helping to raise up and financially support students studying at ELCA seminaries who have demonstrated outstanding leadership potential and exceptional gifts for ministry; **and**

BE IT RESOLVED that God has provided us with sufficient wisdom, fortitude, patience and grace to discern God’s projected direction for our world together; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the resolution be sent to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton who has set an example for like-minded women to use their skills and faith to address the leadership needs of the ELCA.

The convention voted: 294 aye, 6 no.

**Resolution 2017.04: Supporting a responsible energy future and care for creation**

On supporting a responsible energy future and care for creation, the Committee on Reference and Counsel recommended the adoption of this resolution as written. It was adopted.

RESOLVED that the Tenth Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA continue learning about and advocating for a carbon fee and dividend, and other measures such as solar power to care for God’s creation.

The convention voted: 270 aye, 29 no.

**Resolution 2017.05: Number of board members**

On the number of board members from one congregation permitted to serve on a synodical women's organization board, the Committee on Reference and Counsel recommended that this resolution be forwarded to the Constitutional Review Committee of the churchwide executive board for further consideration. The committee's recommendation was adopted.

The convention voted: 248 aye, 25 no.