Resolution #1

Whereas Thrivent Financial is a membership organization of Christians, including many Lutheran Christians from the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (SEPA) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); and

Whereas the relationship between congregational members and Thrivent Financial has included the designation of Thrivent Choice Dollars in support of community outreach; and

Whereas this relationship between Lutherans and Thrivent Financial (formerly Lutheran Brotherhood and Aid Association for Lutherans) has for many years been one of affirmation and cooperation; and

Whereas, on February 6, 2014, the Thrivent Financial Board of Directors made effective a Neutrality Policy regarding recipients of Thrivent Choice Dollars, which restricts giving to "certain social, politically partisan, or health and human services causes and issues such as abortion, sexual orientation, or guns;" and

Whereas the ELCA statement on Church in Society (1991) states that Christians "often disagree passionately on the kind of responses they make to social questions. United with Christ and all believers in baptism, Christians welcome and celebrate their diversity;" and

Whereas the ELCA statement on Peace (1995) reminds us that "The Church is **a disturbing presence** when it refuses to be silent and instead speaks the truth in times when people shout out, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace (Jeremiah 6:14)."

Therefore be it resolved, that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at this assembly urge individual Thrivent Financial members, who are members of this synod's congregations, to register disapproval of this neutrality policy, directing their disapproval to Thrivent Financial representatives, Thrivent Financial branches, and the Thrivent Financial Board of Directors; and

Be it further resolved that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, at this Assembly, call on the congregations of this synod, particularly those who own Thrivent Financial products, to register their concerns to Thrivent Financial regarding this discriminatory neutrality policy; and

Be it further resolved that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America direct the Secretary of this synod to send a copy of this resolution to the Thrivent Financial Board of Directors.

The Committee on Reference and Counsel recommends approval of the following substitute motion:

Be it resolved, that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at this assembly urge individual Thrivent Financial members, who are members of this synod's congregations, to register their concerns about this neutrality policy, directing their responses to Thrivent Financial representatives, Thrivent Financial branches, and the Thrivent Financial Board of Directors; and

Be it further resolved that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, at this assembly, call on the congregations of this synod, particularly those who own Thrivent Financial products, to register their concerns to the Thrivent Financial Board of Directors regarding this neutrality policy; and

Be it further resolved that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America direct the Secretary of this synod to send a copy of this resolution to the Thrivent Financial Board of Directors.