

A Resolution?????

What is it and why submit one (or more)?

According to *Webster*, **a resolution is a formal expression of opinion, will, or intent voted by an official body or assembled group.** A resolution is your opportunity to address problems, situations, or concerns that affect the Churchwide, Synodical or local organizations of Women of the ELCA and possibly its partners and global affiliates.

Resolutions are written documents that advocate for specific change or action in order to meet the purpose of an organization. They provide guidance for the action of the board, make statements on behalf of the members and commit convention voting members and boards to take action, such as sharing information in their synod and congregations.

Resolutions are your voice. If you want to speak up and be heard, this is one way of expressing yourself. Resolutions provide for the vision and direction of our organization. If you have an area of concern that you feel needs to be addressed, a resolution is a way of requesting action and beginning discussion and deliberation. The beginning portion of the resolution (the *Whereas*) states the issue or concern and should list factual background information to help the reader understand why this resolution is being presented. The conclusion (the *resolved*) states the proposed action or actions. It tells what you think we should do about the issue.

Who prepares and presents resolutions?

Every congregational unit has the right and privilege to prepare and present, through its voting member, a resolution to the convention.

Why do we use a resolution form?

The form helps the secretary accurately report the business and action taken. It helps you think through your motion and it helps the convention move forward in an orderly manner.

How do you write a resolution?

Begin by stating the title (main idea) of the resolution. In general, the “Whereas” clause(s) states the issue, concern or problem. The “Resolved” clauses(s) suggest(s) the proposed solutions. Solutions may include what should we do;

who should act; how the action will be funded; when the action should be accomplished; and to whom the results should be reported.

Ask yourself these questions before submitting a resolution:

What are the costs of implementing this action in terms of time, talent and money?

- In what other way could congregational units of our Synod Women’s organization deal with this concern?
- Is the concern something that our Synod Women’s Organization is able to address?
- Is the proposed action consistent with the positions and policies of the ELCA?

