

RESOLUTION OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL OF NAZARETH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

WHEREAS, since 2002, the Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church (“Nazareth”) Council and congregation have been involved in extensive discussions regarding Nazareth’s continued affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (“the ELCA”); and

WHEREAS, in February of 2023, the Church Council appointed an Affiliation Task Force to study alternatives to Nazareth’s ELCA affiliation if Nazareth votes to disaffiliate from the ELCA. The Affiliation Task Force Report has been completed and reviewed by the Church Council, and is now available to the congregation; and

WHEREAS, the Affiliation Task Force reached consensus on a recommendation to consider the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) as the “best denominational option for Nazareth if the congregation elects to leave the ELCA”; and

WHEREAS, after deliberation, on May 11, 2023, the Church Council unanimously determined that a special meeting of the congregation should be called for the purpose of voting on the questions of (1) disaffiliation from the ELCA, and (2) the denomination/association with which Nazareth will affiliate in the event of Nazareth’s disaffiliation from the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2023, by a unanimous vote, after extensive prayerful study and deliberation, the Nazareth Church Council recommended that Nazareth disaffiliate from the ELCA and that it become a member congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC), and that steps be taken to accomplish these congregational actions; and

WHEREAS, on July 16, 2023 at the congregational meeting notwithstanding the fact that 63.4% of the votes cast favored disaffiliation from the ELCA, the resolution was not adopted because a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority was required to adopt the resolution. After prayerful and careful reflection on the vote, recognizing that a substantial majority of the voting members of Nazareth desired to disaffiliate from the ELCA, the Church Council voted to continue discussion on disaffiliation from the ELCA in preparation for another congregational meeting and vote; and

WHEREAS, after deliberation, on December 19, 2023, the Church Council determined that a special meeting of the congregation should be called for the purpose of voting again on the questions of (1) disaffiliation from the ELCA, and (2) the denomination/association with which Nazareth will affiliate; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2024, by a unanimous vote, after extensive prayerful study and deliberation, the Nazareth Church Council recommended that Nazareth disaffiliate from the ELCA and that it become a member congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC), and that steps be taken to accomplish these congregational actions; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the correct procedural steps to be taken to arrive at congregational decisions on these matters.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That a special congregational meeting shall be held on the 17th day of April, 2024, for the purpose of voting on the following Resolutions:

a. RESOLVED, that Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church intends to and shall begin the process of terminating its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) following two legally called and conducted special meetings of the congregation; and

b. RESOLVED, that in the event the congregation votes to terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church intends to establish an affiliation with the North American Lutheran Church (NALC).

2. Written notice of this special congregational meeting shall be delivered to the Bishop of the Northeast Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America no later than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the special meeting; and prior to the special meeting, the congregation shall consult with the Bishop and the Bishop's designees, if any.
3. Written notice of this special congregational meeting shall also be given by ordinary mail to the voting members of Nazareth at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the special meeting. Such written notice shall state the purpose of the special meeting.
4. Within ten (10) days after the Resolutions have been voted upon, the secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy of the Resolutions to the Bishop of the Northeast Iowa Synod, attesting that the special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the vote, and shall send copies of the Resolutions and certification to the voting members of the congregation.
5. If the Resolutions are adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present at the meeting, the Bishop of the Northeast Iowa Synod and the congregation shall continue in consultation during a period of at least ninety (90) days after receipt by the Bishop of the attestation and certification as specified in Paragraph 4 above.
6. If the congregation, after such consultation, still intends to terminate its relationship with the ELCA, such action shall be taken at a second legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present. Notice of this second meeting shall be sent to all voting members and to the Bishop at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting.
7. Within ten (10) days after the Resolutions have been voted upon at the second special meeting, the secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy of the Resolutions to the Bishop of the Northeast Iowa Synod, attesting that the second special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the vote, and shall send copies of the Resolutions and certification to the voting members of the congregation.