

Memorial 3 - Creating Safe Churches for Children

WHEREAS, all forms of child abuse are contrary to scripture, the teachings of Christ, and the deepest convictions and confessions we share as members of the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, we are called to be good stewards and Good Samaritans caring for all living things, our neighbors, especially those who are small, young, poor, and weak; and

WHEREAS, sexual crimes against children continue to be prevalent; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA, gathered at the first churchwide assembly in 1989, passed a resolution which called, in part, for “each congregation to commit itself to become a safe place”: and

WHEREAS, the Upstate New York Synod Council adopted a “Child and Youth Abuse Prevention Program” in December 2012; and

WHEREAS, Cherish All Children (formerly “Cherish Our Children”), a resource out of the Minneapolis Synod, can offer resources for developing child abuse education and prevention policies such as safe church training; and

WHEREAS, the Upstate New York Synodical Women’s Organization at convention 2008 acted boldly to develop a Cherish All Children ministry regarding these issues; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Upstate New York Synodical Women’s Organization strongly encourages all our congregations and their ministries to offer child abuse education and prevention training for all staff and volunteers who have contact with children and youth; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the delegates of the Ninth Triennial Convention encourage participants and congregational units of Women of the ELCA to support their congregations in reviewing their childcare policies and providing child abuse education and prevention training for all staff and volunteers who have contact with children and youth.