

What's the Difference?

On Church Discipline in the ELCA & in the LC-MS

From the ELCA Leadership:

The report had six parts. The first part listed three recommendations the task force had for the churchwide assembly -- that the ELCA...continue under the standards regarding sexual conduct for rostered leaders as set forth in "Vision and Expectations" and "Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline," but that, as a pastoral response to the deep divisions in the ELCA, this church may choose to refrain from disciplining those who in good conscience, and for the sake of outreach, ministry and the commitment to continuing dialogue, call or approve partnered gay or lesbian candidates whom they believe to be otherwise in compliance with "Vision and Expectations" and to refrain from disciplining those rostered people so approved and called.

http://www.elca.org/Scriptlib/CO/ELCA_News/encArticleList.asp?a=2978&p=2

From the LC-MS Leadership:

On the one hand, participation in such events (when no restriction is placed on the nature or content of one's Christian witness) would seem to provide a valuable opportunity to bear witness to Christ and the truth of his Gospel in a public context in which (one may presume) many of those present do not know and desperately need to hear this saving truth. On the other hand, the valid concern exists that participation in such a context might convey a tacit approval of the syncretistic and relativistic perspectives that pervade our culture and society. Given the realities, challenges, needs and opportunities that exist in our present culture, this may well be an irresolvable tension.

LC-MS, *Guidelines for Participation in Civic Events*, CTCR

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