

# The ELCA Breaks Trust

by Pr. Dennis D. Nelson, CORE Director and President

The ELCA is guilty of a massive breach of trust. The ELCA cannot be trusted. We realize that those are very strong statements, but they are confirmed by the presentation given by one of the keynote speakers at the recent ELCA Youth Gathering.

Nadia Bolz-Weber (NBW) is a gifted communicator. As she shares very honestly about the struggles in her own life, she has an amazing ability to connect with and encourage young people who are struggling with self-confidence, self-image, and shame. She is absolutely correct that God loves us as we are, and she communicates that message powerfully (even though her description of grace says nothing about the cross!). But even so, anyone who cares about truth, integrity, and young people should be totally up in arms with how she ended her presentation on the night of June 29, 2018.

**NBW: Do you renounce the lie that queerness is anything other than beauty?**

## List of Lies

In that [presentation](#), she described the devil as that voice within us that accuses. She said that her favorite part of the baptismal liturgy is when we are asked, "Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil and all his empty promises?" Fairly enough, she equated the devil's "empty promises" with "lies," but then she led the audience through a series of questions, in which she asked 30,000 young people whether they renounced a list of things that she considered to be such lies. In response to each lie the audience shouted, "I renounce them!" Included in these renunciations was the question, "Do you renounce the lie that queerness is anything other than beauty?" The arena full of young people shouted their agreement.

## Beholden to a lie?

There you have it: if queerness is deemed beauty and a belief that queerness is *not* beauty is deemed a lie, then the traditional view of human sexuality has just been described at an official gathering of 30,000 young members of the ELCA as a lie, one of the devil's empty promises. So now, those who hold to that traditional view are, according to an official and privileged speaker of the ELCA, beholden to a lie from Satan that must be renounced. Can you imagine what would happen if an ELCA Youth Gathering keynote speaker had asked, "Do you renounce the lie that same-sex erotic behavior is anything other than sin?" Or if such a speaker had in any way implied that the

LGBTQIA+ community is beholden to a lie?

## 2009 Churchwide Assembly Commitment

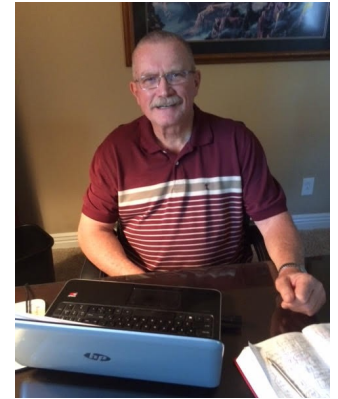
Whatever happened to the commitment that was made at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly (CWA)? That assembly purported to give an official place for a wide range of views, including the traditional view, within the ELCA. Was a traditional speaker allowed to address the youth in Houston? Or whatever happened to the boundaries that were set at that same Assembly? The only kind of same gender relationships that were approved are those that are publicly accountable, lifelong, and monogamous (PALMS).

That assembly did not approve bisexuality, transgenderism, or any of the other forms of sexual identity and expression that are a part of the LGBTQIA+

community. And yet here we have the organizing committee of the ELCA Youth Gathering scheduling, as one of the keynote speakers, a prominent face in the ELCA who has now publicly condemned any perspective on same-sex erotic behavior but the most revisionist. She is not only a signer of the "[We Are Naked and Unashamed](#)" document, which rejects marriage by any definition as normative for sexual activity, but now she has gone even beyond that. She has described the traditional view of human sexuality as a lie from Satan that needs to be renounced.

## 2009 CWA Vote Opened Flood Gates

How are we now to view all of the language that we were given leading up to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly? How shall we now trust the ELCA? In the time leading up to the 2009 assembly, we were told that what was being proposed would merely allow churches who wanted to call a pastor in a same gender relationship to do so. Any congregation that did not wish to, would not need to do so. Given the public denunciation of traditional teaching (before youth, no less), how can we view all of that chatter as any-



**The traditional view of human sexuality has been described at an official gathering of the ELCA as a lie.**

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thing other than a set up? Once those who have been driving this revisionist agenda got the vote that they had been working relentlessly to get, the flood gates were opened. The true agenda is revealed. The traditional view of human sexuality is no longer included as one acceptable option among many. Rather it is characterized as a lie from Satan that needs to be renounced.

**The traditional view of human sexuality is no longer one acceptable option among many.**

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### Survey Regarding ELCA Youth Gathering

*We want to know what you think and how you feel about the recent ELCA Youth Gathering. What have you heard from those who attended? Besides the concerns that we have expressed regarding some of the keynote speakers, we have heard many reports of positive opportunities for fellowship, learning, worship, and service in the Greater Houston area.*

*This survey can be found [here](#). Your answers will be kept confidential. Thank you for your time and effort in answering these questions, and thank you for your support of the historic Christian faith and traditional Biblical morals and values.*

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### Share Widely

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### See Also

Please check out our newsletters, letters from the director, and other communications located under [Communications](#) on our website.