Scriptural Authority Crisis

1984

70 ALC, LCA, and AELC leaders planned for the new church (ELCA). 30 of 63 voted to remove "God, the Father, Son, Holy Spirit" from the proposed confession of faith.

1988

The ELCA began.

1989

Two No. Calif. ELCA churches did unauthorized ordinations of 3 practicing homosexuals.

Fellowship of Confessional Lutherans was formed in Sierra Pacific Synod after first synod assembly worship included non-Christian elements.

ELCA bishops admonished pastors to baptize <u>only</u> in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

1990

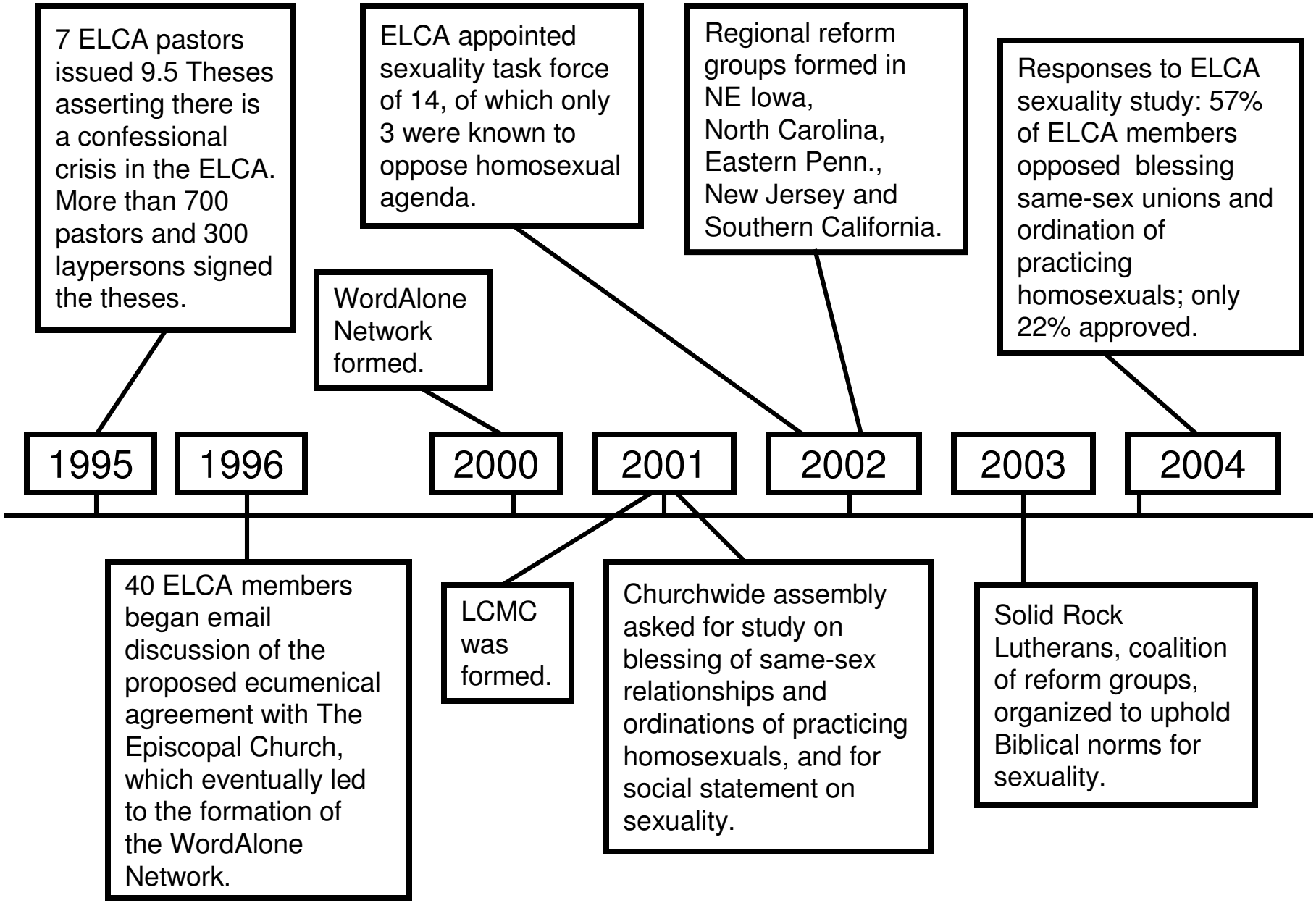
1,000 ELCA leaders met at St. Olaf College in June for Call to Faithfulness conference and expressed concern that the Word of God was being silenced in the ELCA.

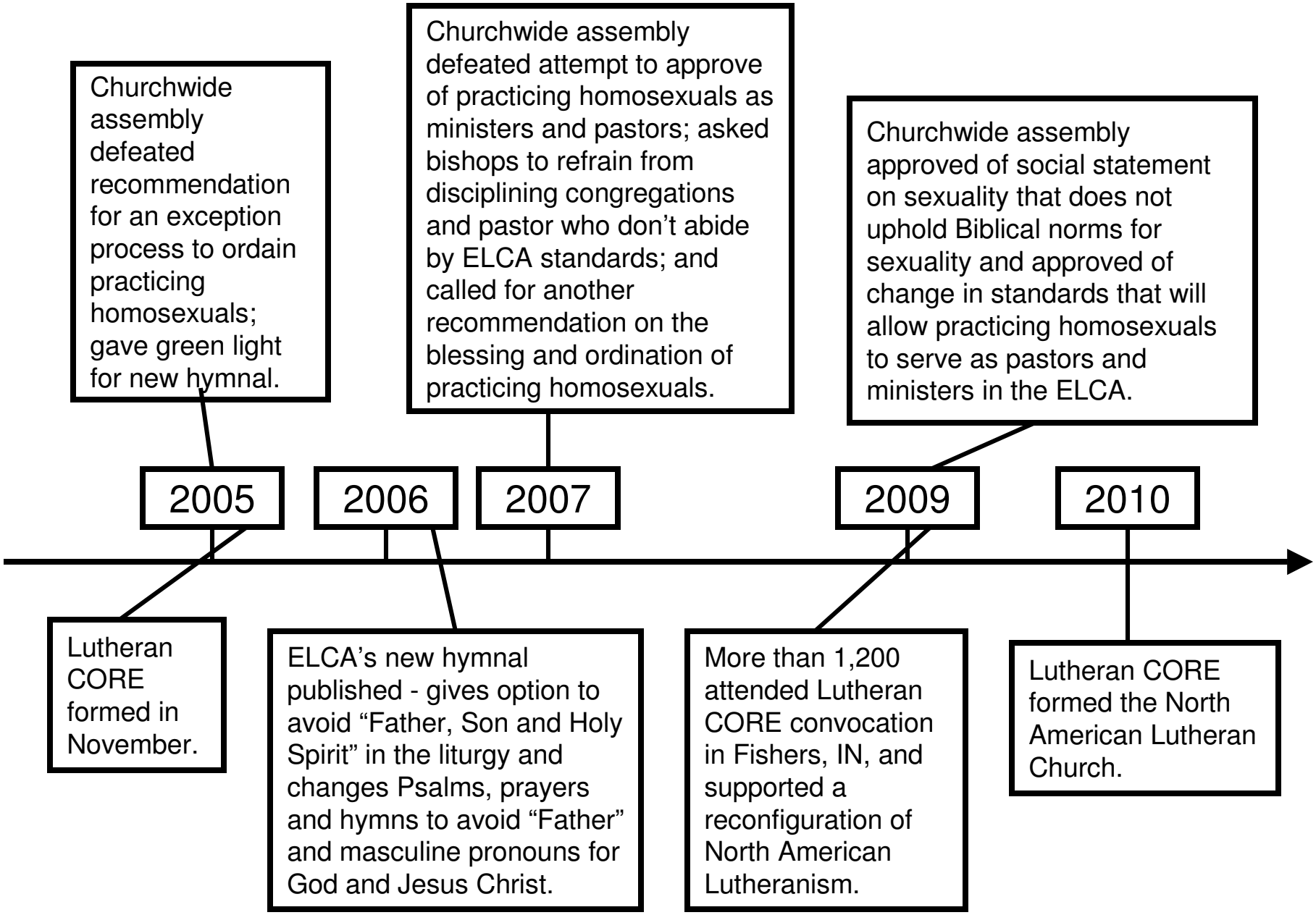
ELCA appointed sexuality task force of 17, of which only 1 upheld Biblical norms for sexuality.

1993

ELCA Bishops stated there is no basis in Scripture or tradition for blessing same-sex sexual relationships.

Sexuality task force issued first draft of social statement that approved of sex outside of marriage. Overwhelming opposition to draft resulted in it being withdrawn.


7 ELCA pastors issued 9.5 Theses asserting there is a confessional crisis in the ELCA. More than 700 pastors and 300 laypersons signed the theses.
ELCA appointed sexuality task force of 14, of which only 3 were known to oppose homosexual agenda.
Regional reform groups formed in NE Iowa, North Carolina, Eastern Penn., New Jersey and Southern California.
Responses to ELCA sexuality study: 57% of ELCA members opposed blessing same-sex unions and ordination of practicing homosexuals; only 22% approved.
WordAlone Network formed.
1995
1996
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
40 ELCA members began email discussion of the proposed ecumenical agreement with The Episcopal Church, which eventually led to the formation of the WordAlone Network.
LCMC was formed.
Churchwide assembly asked for study on blessing of same-sex relationships and ordinations of practicing homosexuals, and for social statement on sexuality.
Solid Rock Lutherans, coalition of reform groups, organized to uphold Biblical norms for sexuality.


Churchwide assembly defeated recommendation for an exception process to ordain practicing homosexuals; gave green light for new hymnal.
Churchwide assembly defeated attempt to approve of practicing homosexuals as ministers and pastors; asked bishops to refrain from disciplining congregations and pastor who don't abide by ELCA standards; and called for another recommendation on the blessing and ordination of practicing homosexuals.
Churchwide assembly approved of social statement on sexuality that does not uphold Biblical norms for sexuality and approved of change in standards that will allow practicing homosexuals to serve as pastors and ministers in the ELCA.
2005
2006
2007
2009
2010
Lutheran CORE formed in November.
ELCA's new hymnal published - gives option to avoid "Father, Son and Holy Spirit" in the liturgy and changes Psalms, prayers and hymns to avoid "Father" and masculine pronouns for God and Jesus Christ.
More than 1,200 attended Lutheran CORE convocation in Fishers, IN, and supported a reconfiguration of North American Lutheranism.
Lutheran CORE formed the North American Lutheran Church.