

The following resolution was adopted by the 2006 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly held on June 8-10 at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia. "Whereas" clauses are listed as background for voting members. The Assembly votes on "resolved" clauses only.

Immigration Reform

WHEREAS, Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew. 25:35 - NRSV): and

WHEREAS, Moses taught, "You shall not oppress a stranger; you know the heart of a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Exodus. 23:9 – RSV): and

WHEREAS, the author of Hebrews advised, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares;" and

WHEREAS, legislation is pending that would criminalize providing assistance through ministry to the strangers among us labeled "unauthorized aliens," commonly known as "illegal immigrants"; and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran church in the United States was founded by immigrants, and ministry with immigrant communities through congregations, agencies and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services continues; therefore be it

RESOLVED that this Synod in assembly direct the Bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod to communicate to the President, the members of the United States Senate representing the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the members of the United States House of Representatives from the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia representing the territory of this Synod, in addition to the Delegate to the House of Representatives from the District of Columbia,

- the strong opposition of our Synod to any legislation that heightens criminal penalties against unauthorized aliens,
- the strong opposition of our Synod to any legislation that criminalizes those who do ministry with them,
- the strong support of bipartisan efforts to address justly the issue of immigration reform; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that this Synod in assembly direct the Bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod to encourage the clergy and lay members of this synod to write to their elected leaders regarding this issues; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod communicate our

position to the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); and be it further

RESOLVED that the Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly direct the Washington, D.C. Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council's Executive Committee for proper referral and disposition under the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church.