

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.

Peace in Darfur

WHEREAS, not since the Rwanda genocide of 1994 has the world seen such a calculated campaign of slaughter, rape, starvation and displacement as has been seen in South Darfur since 2003, and

WHEREAS, the Sudanese government does not support the 7,000 African Union relief workers (the only foreign relief force currently allowed in Sudan), refuses to allow peace-keeping forces into the country, and continues to support the "Janjaweed" militias, and

WHEREAS, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act (S 1462) directs the President of the United States to appoint a Special Envoy for Sudan and northern Uganda to help "implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for Sudan, seek ways to bring stability and peace to the Darfur region, address instability elsewhere in Sudan and Northern Uganda, and pursue a truly comprehensive peace throughout the region," and

WHEREAS, in 2005 the United States Senate approved \$50 million to support the African Union in the Fiscal Year 2006 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill (HR 3057), even though this funding was cut from the final bill during conference committee; and

WHEREAS, despite urgent appeals for the funding to be restored through the Fiscal Year 2006 Department of Defense Appropriations bill (HR 2863), Congress elected not to approve additional resources last year, and

WHEREAS, to date, the United States government has appropriated more than \$173 million to African Union Mission in Sudan, most of which has been used to construct and maintain camps for the troops, and more than \$900 million in Fiscal Year 2005-Fiscal Year 2006 for emergency relief in Sudan, and

WHEREAS, the massive relief operation appropriations must continue, and be fully funded, so that Darfur's people can continue to receive clean water, food, and other vital supplies; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that this Synod in Assembly encourage the congregations of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod and to learn about Darfur and request that our congregations and individual members consider sending messages to their respective

federal government leaders to take stronger measures towards achieving peace in Darfur¹; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Synod in Assembly exhort our congregation to pray for, the people of Darfur, the relief efforts, and for the peace process; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Synod in Assembly direct the Bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod to communicate to the President of the United States, the members of Congress representing congregations of the territory of this Synod, and the United States Secretary of State the desires of this Synod that the supplemental appropriations request for Darfur be fully funded, including at least \$123 million in funding for the African Union mission in Darfur and for a potential transition to a United Nations peacekeeping mission, and at least \$228 million in continued humanitarian assistance; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Synod in Assembly direct the Bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod to communicate to President George W. Bush and to the Department of State our desire that a special Envoy for Sudan at the Department of State be named as soon as feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly direct the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Division for Church in Society for possible action to request that the Sudanese Government withdraw objections to a United Nations peacekeeping force in Darfur, and to allow humanitarian relief organizations full access to the villages and refugee camps.

¹ Congregations and individuals can go to www.elca.org/advocacy and sign up for advocacy and receive updated action alerts of Darfur from the ELCA