

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.

Service of Partnered Gay and Lesbian Persons in Rostered Ministry

WHEREAS, the 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) urged our church *"to concentrate on finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of our disagreements,"* and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly is on record of advocating the removal of barriers to rostered service for otherwise qualified persons in same-gender, covenanted relationships; and

WHEREAS, the proposals to the 2005 Churchwide Assembly regarding the ministry of partnered gay and lesbian persons, which were defeated, nevertheless did not leave clear and consistent guidance in their stead; and

WHEREAS, it is clear that no resolution of this matter acceptable to all persons is possible at this time; and

WHEREAS, there are many instances where the process of discernment of God's calling for ministry has identified candidates and settings for rostered ministry where the only impediment to the call of the church is the ELCA policy precluding service by partnered gay and lesbian persons; and

WHEREAS, many gay and lesbian persons already serve in the rostered ministry in congregations of this church, with the knowledge, acceptance and advocacy of the congregation's members; therefore be it

RESOLVED that in furtherance of the goal of *"finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of our disagreements"* the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly encourage restraint in the administration of those policies that address the full service of partnered gay and lesbian person in rostered ministry; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly suggest to other synods to join us in encouraging restraint in the administration of policies applicable only to gay and lesbian rostered persons as a part of the continuing discernment process of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).