

The following resolution was adopted by the 2010 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly during its Spring Session on May 7-8 at the National Conference Center in Landsdowne, Virginia. “Whereas” clauses are listed as background for voting members. The Assembly votes on “resolved” clauses only.

Kairos Palestine Document

- Whereas, a group of concerned Palestinian Christians have written the document, *A Moment of Truth, A word of faith, hope and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering*,¹ in Arabic and written first to the people of the churches in their land; and
- Whereas, the patriarchs and heads of the thirteen historic churches in Jerusalem and the Holy Land in a united response² have put aside whatever differences there may be among them to come together to support and stand by the cry of hope offered to people of faith throughout the world in this document, *A Moment of Truth*, also known as “*The Kairos Palestine Document*” [hereinafter “*Kairos Palestine*”]; and
- Whereas, *Kairos Palestine* is, in the words of Bishop Munib A. Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, “...an expression of the aspirations of Palestinian Christians inspired by our common spiritual heritage.”³ and
- Whereas, Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has called *Kairos Palestine* an “authentic word from our brothers and sisters in the Palestinian Christian community” and has termed the document “... primarily a word of hope in a time of overwhelming pessimism in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a pessimism that could lead to despair.”⁴ and
- Whereas, Bishop Hanson has further affirmed, “Their hope, their affirmation of love for every person, and their nonviolent resistance to the occupation inspire us to continue to do what we can to stand with our companions and partners seeking a just and lasting peace for all in the region.”⁵ and

¹ <http://www.kairopalestine.ps/sites/default/Documents/English.pdf>

² Statement issued December 15, 2009

³ News Release, ELCA News Service, December 11, 2009

⁴ In Response to the Kairos Palestine Document <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Office-of-the-Presiding-Bishop/Messages-and-Statements/091217.aspx>

⁵ *ibid.*

Whereas, we were witness to a similar kairotic moment in South Africa when the cries of the people there burst forth to the world; and

Whereas, *Kairos Palestine* is not an in-depth analysis of the conflict, but is instead a call both to reject the oppression of the occupation itself and a strong affirmation that for followers of the Christ "...love puts an end to evil by walking in the ways of justice."⁶; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod call upon and urge all of its congregations, laity, and clergy to

- (1) Read and discuss the Kairos Palestine document,
- (2) Seek ways to achieve a deeper understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and
- (3) Seek ways in which they can act to help end the occupation, bring about justice for all, and foster reconciliation among all the people of the Holy Land.

⁶ <http://www.kairopalestine.ps/sites/default/Documents/English.pdf> , 4.2.1