

SUMMARY OF THE ACTIONS OF THE 2013 METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 425 voting members meeting May 31-June 1, 2013 at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, New York, approved memorials and resolutions, and adopted budgets.

Memorials Adopted

SA2013.05.01 A Memorial Calling for Conversations About Ministering to Same-Gender Couples and Their Families

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

1. to invite and encourage conversations among this church's congregations, rostered leaders, and the Conference of Bishops regarding (a) the growing trend in state and federal laws toward marriage equality, and (b) how all the expressions of the ELCA can respond to the needs of the neighbor, including discussion and sharing of resources that would be most helpful for those wishing to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals and couples and their families;
2. to invite and encourage conversations among this church's congregations, rostered leaders, and the Conference of Bishops regarding ways that this church can advocate for equal protection under the law for same-gender couples and their families; and
3. to invite and encourage the ELCA Church Council and the churchwide organization to make provision for Voting Members to engage in these conversations at the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, as the church continues to discern its ministry in the emerging context.

SA2013.05.02 A Memorial in Support of Legislation Prohibiting Employment Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to call upon the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate to take up and pass legislation that would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to urge the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, synodical bishops, clergy, and other church leaders to speak publicly in support of legislation that would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to urge lay leaders to make this Assembly's position and the ELCA's position known to their Members of Congress in the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to urge synods to not do business with companies known to discriminate.

SA2013.05.03 A Memorial In Support of the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA)

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to call upon President Obama and elected officials in Congress to support and to press for passage of the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA) or its equivalent as a component of comprehensive immigration reform; and be it further

RESOLVED, that if a bill for comprehensive immigration reform is passed before the start of the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, and if the bill does not include UAFA or its equivalent, the Metropolitan New York Synod memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to call for the reintroduction of UAFA in the U.S. legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to commend

Bishop Thomas M. Aitken, Northeastern Minnesota Synod,
Bishop James A. Arends, La Crosse Area Synod,
Bishop David H. Brauer-Rieke, Oregon Synod,
Bishop Bruce H. Burnside, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin,
Bishop Jessica R. Crist, Montana Synod,
Bishop H. Julian Gordy, Southeastern Synod,
Bishop Richard H. Graham, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod,
Bishop Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane, Delaware-Maryland Synod,
Bishop Mark W. Holmerud, Sierra Pacific Synod,
Bishop Felipe Lozada-Montañez, Caribbean Synod,
Bishop Dean W. Nelson, Southwest California Synod,
Former Bishop Margaret Payne, New England Synod,
Bishop Robert A. Rimbo, Metropolitan New York Synod,
Bishop Michael Rinehart, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod,
Bishop Stephen S. Talmage, Grand Canyon Synod, and
Bishop Martin D. Wells, Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod

for their courageous witness and their stand for justice in adding their names to the *Faith Coalition for UAFA*; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to encourage the clergy and other leaders of congregations in this church to support the Uniting American Families Act by communicating with their elected representatives,

encouraging them to co-sponsor and to support a just, comprehensive reform of U.S. immigration law that includes the principles of UFAFA.

SA2013.05.04

A Memorial to Commission and Adult Catechism

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod memorializes the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to request the Church Council to commission, through the appropriate channels with appropriate funding, the development of an Adult Catechism as a resource for the church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod memorializes the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to request that this catechism be prepared as an educational resource to supplement Luther's Catechisms, not as vehicle for establishing specific policies or norms within the Church or for binding the consciences of its members; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod memorializes the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to request that the Church Council invite ELCA Full Communion Partner churches to participate in this project so that continued inter-church dialogue may be enriched and shared throughout the churches, and so that we may further live out the promise of our partnerships; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this catechism take into account and reference the extensive bilateral ecumenical dialogues of the past 50 years.

Resolutions Adopted

SA2013.05.05

A Resolution Regarding Ascension Day

RESOLVED, that this Synod Assembly encourages the Bishop in consultation with the Synod Council and Conference of Deans to set aside time for a "cathedral" event on Ascension Day or the Eve of the Ascension of Our Lord in each successive year, possibly during a Synod Assembly, to lift up the strength and meaning of the Ascension of Our Lord in the widest possible public acclamation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations and ministries of the Synod be encouraged to attend this celebration, inviting and enabling participation without detracting from local, ecumenical, and congregational celebrations of the Ascension of Our Lord.

SA2013.05.06 A Resolution Urging Congregation Support for the *diakonia* Program® and Other Leadership and Lay Education Ministries

RESOLVED, that every congregation of the Metro New York Synod be encouraged to

support the *diakonia* Program by the following actions:

- a. Making congregation members aware of the benefits of the *diakonia* Program through bulletin announcements, Web site links, and newsletters;
- b. Supporting members who may be seeking to learn more about their faith;
- c. Hosting *diakonia* Program graduates for temple talks and/or presentations to congregation groups;
- d. Providing financial support for members to participate in the *diakonia* Program;
- e. Encouraging congregation leaders to participate in the *diakonia* Program; and
- f. Assisting *diakonia* Program graduates in our synod to identify roles for ministry in congregations and the synod;

and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Synod commend and support *diakonia* Program graduates for the dedication they have exhibited in and through their study of God's Word and their willingness to serve God; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all voting members of this Synod Assembly be encouraged to support the *diakonia* Program and other leadership and lay education ministries through their prayers and actions.

Budget Resolutions Adopted

SA2013.05.07

Ratified an Adjusted Budget of \$3,080,429 for F.Y. 2013

SA2013.05.08

Adopted a Budget of \$3,259,876 for F.Y 2014

Prepared by The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Secretary