

The following resolution was adopted by the 2011 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly during its Spring Session on May 6-7 at the National Conference Center in Leesburg, Virginia. "Whereas" clauses are listed as background for Voting Members. The Assembly votes on "Resolved" clauses only.

Advocating Against Bullying, Harassment and Related Violence

- Whereas, “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.” (1Cor. 12:26); and
- Whereas, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Social Statement on Education (2007, page 26) we declared, “The ELCA expects communities of learning and teaching to be safe places. We recognize that school safety is an issue for all students, staff, and teachers. Unfortunately, incidents of bullying, intimidation, and other forms of violence are not unusual. We affirm that personal safety and security are essential for optimal teaching and learning;” and
- Whereas, media attention has made us acutely aware of tragic consequences (including youth suicide) if steps are not taken to prevent bullying, harassment, and other related forms of violence; and
- Whereas, according the US Health Resources and Services Administration (www.stopbullying.gov), people who have been bullied have a higher risk of depression, increased thoughts of suicide, decreased academic achievement, skip or drop out of school, and are more likely to retaliate using extreme violence. People who bully others have higher risk of abusing drugs and alcohol, are more likely to have criminal records, and are more abusive to romantic partners and children; and
- Whereas, our Lord Jesus Christ commanded us to love our neighbor as ourselves and even to include our enemies in such love (Luke10: 25-37); and
- Whereas, the voice of the church addressing the intersection of race, economic status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, and physical ability is a powerful witness to the healing and life-affirming Gospel promise; therefore, be it
- Resolved, that the ELCA Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly encourage congregations and pastors to speak against bullying and related forms of violence in preaching, teaching and in other appropriate forums in the life of the congregation; and be it further
- Resolved, that Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly encourage new partnerships among congregations, synod offices and units, affiliated Lutheran ministries, and

public organizations to support programs addressing bullying, harassment, and other related violence; and be it further

Resolved, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly memorialize the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly meeting in Orlando, Florida, to encourage, support, and publicize new partnerships in ministry that emerge in our church addressing the prevention of bullying, harassment, and related forms of violence