

*The following resolution was adopted by the 2015 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly which met on June 19-20, 2015 at the National Conference Center in Leesburg, Virginia. "Whereas" clauses are listed as background for Voting Members. The Assembly votes on "Resolved" clauses only.*

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#### **LAY ROSTERED VOTING MEMBERS AT SYNOD AND CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLIES**

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) maintains rosters of ordained ministers and three lay rosters -- commissioned associates in ministry, consecrated diaconal ministers and consecrated deaconesses; and

WHEREAS, at least 60% of the voting members of synod and churchwide assemblies shall be composed of laypersons, with the remaining portion of voting members coming from the roster of ordained ministers (*ELCA Constitution & Bylaws, Section 5.01.f-g*); and

WHEREAS, persons from the three lay rosters who serve as voting members at churchwide assemblies are included among the number of lay voting members of churchwide assemblies; and

WHEREAS, the number of non-rostered lay voting members is thereby reduced when rostered lay persons fill those seats, thereby reducing representation of the non-rostered membership, the majority voice of our church; and

WHEREAS, the unique perspective of the lay rostered leader, whose combination of theological education and call to diakonia, serving on the boundaries between Church and World, is a critical voice in conversations regarding our Church; and

WHEREAS, both ordained and lay rostered voting members at assemblies serve congregations, agencies and organizations related to the ELCA and bring that unique perspective to the assembly; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D. C. Synod Assembly memorialize the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to amend the ELCA governing documents to require that at least 60% of the total number of voting members at synod and churchwide assemblies consist of non-rostered lay voting members, with the remaining voting members to be drawn from leaders on the four ministry rosters of the ELCA.