

The following resolution was adopted by the 2016 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly which met on June 18, 2016 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland. "Whereas" clauses are listed as background for Voting Members. The Assembly votes on "Resolved" clauses only.

CURRENT AMERICAN POLITICAL DISCOURSE

WHEREAS, during the current election cycle, a number of national candidates for high office have engaged in what many Americans would describe as hate-filled rhetoric, personal invective, bigotry, bullying and the politics of exclusion, and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran church worldwide strives at all times in all ways to reflect the love of Jesus Christ for every man, woman and child, loving our neighbors as ourselves; and

WHEREAS, the life and witness of Jesus which embodies the core values of our faith call us to the spiritual task of promoting healing and reconciling ministries that support full and productive lives for all people at home and abroad, always honoring and nurturing the sanctity of the human spirit as a living manifestation of God's love; and

WHEREAS, Jesus showed us and history taught us, it is incumbent upon each of us to live the Word of God and stand against the forces of hatred, fear and bigotry when we see them, not just to hear but to do, not to condemn but to uplift, not to cast out but to include, not to defame but to honor, not to hurt but to embrace, not to hate but to love, and

WHEREAS, the Founding Fathers created America and its body of laws reflecting God's higher law, grounded forever in the belief that all people are equal in the eyes of God and man, united by how we are alike rather than how we are different; and

WHEREAS, America's leaders, as sacred stewards of the hopes and dreams of the Founding Fathers, as humble representatives of the American people and as responsible and compassionate citizens of the Earth, must strive at all times to embody, reflect and honor these beliefs; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly rejects the public expressions of hatred, fear and bigotry being made during current political campaigns and encourages national and local leaders to boldly, unequivocally and responsibly embrace the values of compassion, honor, respect, cooperation and compromise that are the heart and soul of America; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly direct the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Church Council and to relevant local and national political organizations for consideration and possible action.