

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD ASSEMBLY**  
**National Conference Center    Lansdowne, Virginia**  
**June 19-20, 2015**

**Reference & Counsel Number: 2015-007**

**Secretary's Number:**

**Title:                Racism and the Events in Charleston**

**Submitted:        The Reverend Craig Endicott, the Reverend Karen Brau**

**Received:         June 20, 2015**

**Whereas**        our sisters and brothers in Christ in Charleston are grieving the deaths of Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Tywanza Sanders, Ethel Lance, Susie Jackson, Daniel Simmons, Sr., Cynthia Hurd, Myra Thompson, DePayne Middleton Doctor, and Clementa Pinkney; and

**Whereas,**        their murders are yet another manifestation of the systemic evils of racism and gun violence in this country, and

**Whereas,**        the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has been ineffective in significantly changing the racism of this church or this country, and

**Whereas,**        the ELCA and its predecessor bodies have often been silent and/or complicit in these systemic evils; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,**    that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly declares June 21, 2015 as a day of mourning, prayer, contrition, repentance, and contemplation concerning the events in Charleston on June 17th and other evil and violence perpetrated due to racism -- in particular, by white Christians; and, be it further

**RESOLVED,**    that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly, in order to avoid confusing the causes of racism with the means of racism, calls for a one-month moratorium on statements by its members advocating for gun control and/or gun rights as one solution to racism; and, be it further

**RESOLVED,**    that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly encourages its member congregations to place on the agendas for their next congregation council meetings the consideration of this resolution and adopt a resolution of similar content and forward such action(s) to the synod's Racial Equity and Racism Team.

6/20/2015