

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD ASSEMBLY**  
**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Gaithersburg, Maryland**  
**June 18, 2016**

**Reference & Counsel Number: 2016 - 02**

**Secretary's Number:**

**Title: -- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**

**Submitted by: Rev. Richard Hoehn and Rev. Michael Kuchinsky**

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**Whereas,** the *United Nations Millennium Development Goals 2015 Report* shows that due to global efforts, since the year 1990:

- “17,000 fewer children die each day,”
- “more than 1 billion people have been lifted out of extreme poverty,”
- “the global under-five mortality rate has declined by more than half,”
- “the maternal mortality ratio has declined by 45 per cent worldwide,”
- “2.6 billion people who have gained access to improved drinking water;

and since the year 2000:

- “the number of out-of-school children of primary school age has fallen by almost half,”
- “new HIV infections fell by approximately 40 per cent,”
- “3.3 million malaria deaths were prevented in 12 years,”

yet “despite many successes, the poorest and most vulnerable people are being left behind” and we continue to face serious environmental challenges;<sup>a</sup> and

**Whereas,** in September, 2015, 193 countries of the United Nations General Assembly agreed on a new set of goals to build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), where “sustainable development goals” now include hunger, poverty, health care, education, gender, reduced inequalities, productive work, peace, justice and other specific and measurable goals in the context of what we have traditionally called “sustainability” or “creation care;” 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; and

**Whereas,** the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has a history of social justice engagement as shown in many statements and study documents, such as *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice (1993)*; and

39 **Whereas,** congregations in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area have a unique  
40 opportunity to take a leadership educational role because they have, and can  
41 access, members who work full time on these concerns in government, think  
42 tanks, advocacy offices, university and other programs on public policy and  
43 service delivery; therefore, be it

44 **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly encourage the  
45 congregations of the synod to engage in thoughtful and prayerful study of the  
46 United Nation’s “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable  
47 Development,” goals and consider activities in the light of that study and to inform  
48 the synod bishop annually on their progress in study and responses for the next  
49 five years; and be it further

50 **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly direct the bishop of  
51 the synod to forward this resolution to other synodical bishops in the ELCA and  
52 encourage them to promote and engage in similar processes; and, be it further

53 **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly direct the  
54 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Council to forward this resolution to the  
55 Church Council for consideration and possible action.

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<sup>a</sup> United Nations. *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015*. Foreword by Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General, 2015.