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<p style="text-align: center;">METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD ASSEMBLY National Conference Center Leesburg, Virginia June 16-17, 2017</p>
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6 **Reference & Counsel Number: 2017-03**

Secretary's Number: 6.3

7 **Title: Membership in ELCA Congregations**

8 **Submitted by:** Georgetown Lutheran Church Congregation Council, Washington, D.C.
9 (Rev. Janice Mynchenberg)

10 **Received:** May 14, 2017

11 **WHEREAS** Jesus directed his disciples to baptize and teach all nations, even unto the
12 ends of the earth; and

13 **WHEREAS** Jesus commanded his followers to love God and to love their neighbors as
14 themselves; and

15 **WHEREAS,** according to St. Paul, there is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, male or
16 female in the body of Christ; and

17 **WHEREAS** the body of Christ is called to bear the burdens of others, to welcome the
18 stranger, to care for the well-being of every child of God; therefore, be it

19 **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly memorialize the
20 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee to amend the church's
21 governing documents to include the following mandatory language in Chapter 8
22 – Membership of the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the ELCA*:

23 “*C8.06. At no time may a disapproval of membership in this congregation be
24 based, in whole or in part, upon age, marital status, race, gender, national
25 origin, economic class, sexual preference, or gender identity. This congregation
26 is open and welcoming to all who seek to worship or learn about Jesus Christ,
27 and membership is open to all persons who agree to be bound by the
28 constitution and bylaws of this congregation.”