

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.

CALL FOR AN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL TO ADDRESS WORLD PROBLEMS

WHEREAS, the world is facing enormous crises that threaten peace and stability between peoples and between nations--interreligious strife, climate change, depletion of the world's natural resources, food insecurity, vast numbers of people unprepared for meaningful employment in the industries of the twenty-first century, and the immense economic divides between the wealthiest few and the vast majority of the world's citizens; and,

WHEREAS, well-meaning and caring people can be found in all groupings of society; and,

WHEREAS, science and technology, when properly applied, can assist humans in being good stewards of God's gifts and in determining the future of our planet; and,

WHEREAS, a powerful and benevolent voice is necessary to overcome the resistance to joining disparate groups together; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D. C. Synod Assembly requests that His Holiness, Pope Francis, as the leader of the world's largest religious organization, call an ecumenical council to bring together leaders of all major world religions, skeptics, agnostics and atheists in a concerted effort to deal with the enormous crises the world now faces; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D. C. Synod Assembly directs the bishop of the synod to communicate this request directly to Pope Francis in writing, as in the attached letter.

*His Holiness Pope Francis
Apostolic Palace
00120 Vatican City*

Your Holiness:

We, the members of the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are grateful to you for your leadership in recapturing the essential message of Jesus as together we seek to care for this God-given planet of ours and to serve humanity, especially the outcast, the poor, the homeless, the alienated.

We are writing to implore you, as the leader of the world's largest religious organization, to call an ecumenical council which would bring together leaders of all major world religions, skeptics, agnostics and atheists to join in a concerted effort to deal with the enormous crises the world now faces: religious strife, global warming, depletion of the world's natural resources, food insecurity, vast numbers of people destitute because they are unprepared for meaningful employment in the industries of the 21st century, and the huge and growing economic divides between the wealthiest in every nation and the vast

majority of the world's citizens. These are just some of the challenges that combine to create a questionable future for our planet.

Well-meaning and caring people can be found in all groupings of society. How can we come together to design and implement measures that will reduce the dangers we face? Science and technology, when properly applied, can allow us to become stewards of God's gifts in determining the future of our planet. We need a voice powerful and benevolent enough to bring us together. Please call for an ecumenical council to tackle these issues before it is too late.

Our prayers are with you as you walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

Sincerely,

*The Reverend Richard H. Graham, Bishop
on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Metropolitan Washington, D. C. Synod*