

*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.*

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### **WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS AND ADVOCATING ON THEIR BEHALF**

- WHEREAS, as Christians, we are called upon to welcome the stranger and the foreigner among us and to be kind to them [Matthew 25:35; Hebrews 13:2; Leviticus 19:34,etc.], and
- WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) endorses comprehensive immigration reform, urging its members to advocate in support of this goal <sup>1</sup> ; and,
- WHEREAS, the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service promotes comprehensive immigration reform and an end to immigration detention of families and children in the US <sup>2</sup> ; and,
- WHEREAS, Bishop Richard Graham and Presiding Bishop Eaton, together with many other ELCA and Roman Catholic Bishops, have appealed to President Obama to end immigration detention families and children in the US <sup>3</sup> ; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that Metropolitan Washington, D. C. Synod Assembly encourage congregations of the synod as well as individual members to urge their Congressional representatives to end the detention of migrant families and to support comprehensive immigration reform that includes potential paths to citizenship for some 11 million undocumented persons in the United States <sup>4</sup> ,using action steps developed and provided by the Synod Immigration Team.
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*1 [http://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Immigration?\\_ga=1.262528072.573209866.1430394342](http://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Immigration?_ga=1.262528072.573209866.1430394342) 33*

*2 <http://lirs.org/cir/>; <http://lirs.org/family-unity/> 34*

*3 <http://elca.org/News-and-Events/7734>; 35 [www.lirs.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/FaithLeaderLetteronDetention\\_150326.pdf](http://www.lirs.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/FaithLeaderLetteronDetention_150326.pdf) 36*

*4 <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/11/18/5-facts-about-illegal-immigration-in-the-u-s/>*