

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.

RACISM AND THE EVENTS IN CHARLESTON

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.