

The following resolution was adopted by the 2016 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly which met on June 18, 2016 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland. "Whereas" clauses are listed as background for Voting Members. The Assembly votes on "Resolved" clauses only.

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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;* 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" no 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

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

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

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

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

* United Nations. *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015*. Foreword by Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General, 2015.