

The following resolution was adopted by the 2017 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly which met on June 16-17, 2017 at the National Conference Center in Leesburg, Virginia. "Whereas" clauses are listed as background for Voting Members. The Assembly votes on "Resolved" clauses only.

TWENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIFTS OF HOPE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Gifts of Hope program was established in 1992 in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod by Sue Clark to provide meaningful alternate Christmas gift-giving opportunities for congregations and members of the synod; and

WHEREAS, over the past twenty-five years, Gifts of Hope has raised over 3.3 million dollars to support local and global ministries providing help to children, youth, adults, and elderly seeking assistance with nutritional and health needs, housing, literacy and mentoring support, transportation, emergency services, advocacy, life-affirming activities, and self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, Gifts of Hope has relied on dedicated program volunteers to create, publicize and collect these gifts each year, as well as many congregational coordinators to bring the opportunities to give each Advent season; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly expresses its gratitude for the Gifts of Hope program, its director Carolyn Sowinski, volunteer leaders and congregation coordinators for the great generosity afforded by members of the synod's congregations to support the various local and global ministries over the last twenty-five years and expresses its encouragement in continuing these good works for the next twenty-five years.