

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.

MEMBERSHIP IN ELCA CONGREGATIONS

WHEREAS, Jesus directed his disciples to baptize and teach all nations, even unto the ends of the earth; and

WHEREAS, Jesus commanded his followers to love God and to love their neighbors as themselves; and

WHEREAS, according to St. Paul, there is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, male or female in the body of Christ; and

WHEREAS, the body of Christ is called to bear the burdens of others, to welcome the stranger, to care for the well-being of every child of God; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee to amend the church's governing documents to include the following mandatory language in Chapter 8 – Membership of the Model Constitution for Congregations of the ELCA:

“C8.06. At no time may a disapproval of membership in this congregation be based, in whole or in part, upon age, ability, marital status, race, gender, national origin, legal status, economic class, sexual orientation, or gender identity. This congregation is open and welcoming to all who seek to worship or learn about Jesus Christ, and membership is open to all persons who agree to be bound by the constitution and bylaws of this congregation.”