**RC2015-09**

# Resolution: Soul-Searching on Expanded War Efforts

**Whereas**, the ELCA social teaching statement, “Church in Society: a Lutheran Perspective,” calls for the church to engage in moral deliberations regarding governmental policy, and “discern when to support and when to confront society’s cultural patterns, values, and powers”; [[1]](#footnote-1) and

**Whereas**, the ELCA social teaching statement “For Peace in God’s World” calls for the church to engage actively in making peace not war, naming and resisting “idols that lead to false security, injustice, and war, and [calling] for repentance” [[2]](#footnote-2); and

**Whereas**, our world finds itself simultaneously dealing with promoters of religious war and of war between nuclear powers; and

**Whereas**, since 1990, U.S. policy has expanded our targets for lethal military action to many global settings; and

**Whereas**, in waging war, harm to the next generations in environmental destruction and genetic mutation is caused as well as much acute human misery; and

**Whereas**, in waging war, great public expense is incurred removing resources from life-sustaining and vital social needs; and

**Whereas**, in waging war since 9/11/01, nearly half of American military personnel have identified themselves as suffering from chronic disabilities, according to the Veterans’ Administration, impairing life for themselves and their families/communities and causing an epidemic in suicide and early deaths, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the Minneapolis Area Synod in assembly ask the Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod to call the congregations and people of this synod to a time of communal soul-searching on the moral impact and societal consequences of expanded U.S. war efforts, and reflection on what reacting to violence with more violence has achieved; and be it further

**Resolved**, that this assembly ask the Bishop of the MAS to encourage the members of the MAS to re-engage and study the ELCA social teaching statements “For Peace in God’s World,” and “Church in Society” as part of this soul-searching; and be it further

**Resolved,** that this assembly urge the Bishop of the MAS to communicate to the Minnesota members of Congress and U.S. Senators that this Synod asks them to follow the U.S. Constitution’s insistence that only the Congress can authorize war; to remove consent for the Authorization for Use of Military Force, passed by the Congress in the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 tragedy, so that it is not applied indefinitely and indiscriminately to all countries and targets; and to call for a report and hearings evaluating the consequences of U.S. military action since 1990 on global violence and instability.

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Adopted by: Central Conference Assembly, February 7, 2015

Adopted by: Annual Meeting of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, February 8, 2015

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| ** SA15.05.12** | **Voted to accept Resolution 2015-09 on Soul-Searching on Expanded War Efforts** |

1. “Church in Society: a Lutheran Perspective,” p. 3. ELCA second biennial Churchwide Assembly, 1991. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “Peace in God’s World,” p. 5. ELCA fourth biennial Churchwide Assembly, 1995*.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-2)