

Sanctuary Synod Resolution

WHEREAS care and equal justice for “the stranger, the alien and the resident alien” is consistently taught in Holy Scripture: (i.e. Ex 12:49, Lev 19:33-34, Num 9:14 & 15:15-16, Deut 10:18-19, Deut 24:17-18, Jer 7:5-7, Ezk 47:21-22, Mal 3:5, Matt 25:31-46, Lk 4:16-21, Rom 12:13, Eph 2:11-22, Heb 13:1-2) and;

WHEREAS the 1998 ELCA Social Message on Immigration proclaims: “We draw on the best of our nation’s traditions as a refuge and haven for the persecuted and destitute when we affirm that we support a generous policy of welcome for refugees and immigrants, and that we will advocate for just immigration policies including fairness in visa regulations and in admitting and protecting refugees.”; and;

WHEREAS the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted to become the nation’s first Sanctuary Denomination.

THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that Sanctuary not only means the provision of shelter but is: a RESPONSE to raids, detentions, deportations, and the criminalization of immigrants and refugees, a STRATEGY to fight individual cases of deportation, to advocate for an end of mass detention and amplify immigrant voices, a VISION for what our communities and world can be, and a MORAL IMPERATIVE to take prophetic action of radical hospitality rooted in the ancient traditions of our faith communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minneapolis Area Synod, in the spirit of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly, declare itself a Sanctuary Synod of the ELCA, ready to protect refugees and undocumented persons from arrest and deportation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), in partnership with organizations including Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Immigrant Law Center of MN, Advocates for Human Rights, ISAIAH’s Sanctuary Network, Legal Rights Center, Arrive Ministries, International Institute of Minnesota, and the Interfaith Coalition on Migration;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minneapolis Area Synod recruit leaders from congregations across the synod to join the leadership of the joint Minneapolis Area Synod and St. Paul Area Synod AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities) Task Force, invite congregations to become AMMPARO Welcoming congregations, and in coordination with Churchwide and the Joint synod AMMPARO Task Force, develop and provide resources for congregations to discern the call to sanctuary, learn about sanctuary and immigration in the US, and partner with local immigrant-led organizations in their community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minneapolis Area Synod advocate for immigrants in local and state legislatures consistent with the ELCA’s 2009 social policy resolution “Towards Compassionate, Just and Wise Immigration Reform”, including Sanctuary State, Driver’s License, and Immigrant Bill of Rights legislation.

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