

Resolution on Examining the Case for Making War in Ukraine

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”; 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; and

WHEREAS, there is little informed and inclusive debate regarding the steadily increasing involvement of the US in making war in Ukraine along with the probable consequences and significant risk of global annihilation; and

WHEREAS, our world is in danger from extreme weather events, toxins, and global pandemic waves; and too many of our neighbors fear interpersonal violence and suffer insecurities of basic needs like housing, food, and access to health care— all of which are exacerbated by current national priorities; and

WHEREAS, great unjustifiable harm, public debt, and personal loss have been incurred due to war-making in the last six decades; and

WHEREAS, the public is unaware of the evil and capacity of the weapons in this war (including the spread of explosives and toxins that will outlast the conflict, as well as the risk of nuclear bombs that would cause not just immediate indiscriminate deaths far worse than Hiroshima and Nagasaki but would also cause a nuclear winter/famine due to upper atmosphere smoke); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod (MAS) acting in assembly ask the Bishop of the MAS to communicate to the MAS area members of Congress and Minnesota U.S. Senators that this Synod asks them to undertake the Constitutional responsibility of Congress to examine the case for the US making war in Ukraine. *The goal of this examination would be transparent hearings with a wide range of experts, including those who are voices of peace, consider alternatives to violence, and are not affiliated with the arms industry; and be it further*

RESOLVED, that the MAS, meeting in assembly, expresses its sympathy and support for victims of this conflict, and urges its congregations to help the victims of war who may appear on their doorstep; and be it further

RESOLVED, consistent with the ELCA Social Statement “For Peace in God’s World” (page 11), that the MAS, meeting in assembly, by adoption of this resolution, declares this war to be unjust and commends all governments involved to seek a negotiated settlement to this conflict; and be it finally

40 *RESOLVED, that the MAS in assembly urges congregations and members of the synod to*
41 *prayerfully consider and discuss how Christ's call to be peacemakers can lead us to be a voice*
42 *for peace regarding the Ukrainian-Russian conflict.*

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46 **Adopted by:** Central Conference in assembly, February 12, 2023

47 **Amended by:** Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly, April 29, 2023

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