**Memorial to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Regarding: Portico Benefits Services Covering Hearing Aids**

**WHEREAS** the age of the rostered leaders is skewed toward senior citizens who typically have a more frequent incidence of hearing loss, and

**WHEREAS** hearing aids can cost $2,000 to $6,000 each, and

**WHEREAS** most insurance companies do not cover hearing aids because they do not consider them a “medical necessity”, and

**WHEREAS** most people believe that being able to adequately hear IS a “medical necessity,” and

**WHEREAS** it appears that Jesus valued hearing as a “medical necessity” … note Luke 22:51 “Jesus said, ‘No more of this.’ And He touched his ear and healed him…”, and

**WHEREAS** we are called to model our lives after Jesus,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Delaware-Maryland Synod memorialize the ELCA in Assembly to instruct the Portico Benefits Services to provide full insurance coverage for hearing aids for the rostered professionals in its members.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Dr. J. Fred Lehr

(This memorial was referred to the DE-MD Synod Council.)