**Resolution #6**

**Resolution in Support of the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA)**

**WHEREAS**, under current U.S. immigration law, a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident is permitted to sponsor his or her spouse, child, or parent for permanent resident status; and

**WHEREAS,** U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents are not permitted to sponsor their same-gender partners for permanent resident status; and

**WHEREAS,** twenty-five other countries allow their citizens to sponsor their same-gender partners in the immigration process; and

**WHEREAS,** there are approximately 36,000 bi-national, same-gender families in the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS,** 35% of male bi-national couples and 39% of female bi-national couples are raising more than 17, 000 children; and

**WHEREAS,** due to the inability of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents to sponsor their same-gender partners, they can be forced to live abroad, thus uprooting their children, disrupting their careers, and breaking ties with their families, communities, and places of worship; and

**WHEREAS,** Americans espouse a belief that we are and should be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all"; and

**WHEREAS,** current immigration law does not provide for equal justice for gay and lesbian citizens and legal permanent residents; therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** that the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA, in Assembly, calls upon President Obama to support and to press for passage of the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA) and calls upon our elected officials in Congress to co-sponsor and to press for passage of the same and to enact inclusive, comprehensive immigration reform legislation that ends the long-standing discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender immigrant families by including the Uniting American Families Act; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that Bishop Herz-Lane (or his designee) communicate the synod’s support of UAFA to:

* President Barack Obama (The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW - Washington, DC 20500),
* Delaware U.S. Senator Thomas R. Carper (513 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510),
* Delaware U.S. Senator Christopher A. Coons (127A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510),
* Delaware U.S. Representative John Carney (1429 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515),
* Maryland U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin (509 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510),
* Maryland U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski (503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510),
* Maryland U.S. Representative Andy Harris (506 Cannon House Office Building  
  Washington, DC 20515),
* Maryland U.S. Representative Dutch Ruppersberger (2453 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515),
* Maryland U.S. Representative John P. Sarbanes (2444 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515),
* Maryland U.S. Representative Steny Hoyer (1705 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515),
* Maryland U.S. Representative Roscoe Bartlett (2412 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515), and
* Maryland U.S. Representative Elijah Cummings (2235 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515); and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Delaware-Maryland Synod, in Assembly, commends

* Bishop Thomas M. Aitken, Northeastern Minnesota Synod,
* Bishop James A. Arends, La Crosse Area Synod (WI),
* Bishop David H. Brauer-Rieke, Oregon Synod,
* Bishop Bruce H. Burnside, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin,
* Bishop Jessica R. Crist, Montana Synod,
* Bishop H. Julian Gordy, Southeastern Synod (GA),
* Bishop Richard H. Graham, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod,
* Bishop Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane, Delaware-Maryland Synod,
* Bishop Mark W. Holmerud, Sierra Pacific Synod,
* Bishop Felipe Lozada-Montañez, Caribbean Synod,
* Bishop Dean W. Nelson, Southwest California Synod,
* Bishop Margaret Payne, New England Synod,
* Bishop Robert A. Rimbo, Metropolitan New York Synod,
* Bishop Michael Rinehart, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod,
* Bishop Stephen S. Talmage, Grand Canyon Synod, and
* Bishop Martin D. Wells, Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod

for their courageous witness and their stand for justice in adding their names to the *Faith Coalition for UAFA*; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Delaware-Maryland Synod, in Assembly, encourages the pastors and congregations of this synod to pray for the immigrants, refugees, and strangers in their communities; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Delaware-Maryland Synod, in Assembly, encourages the pastors and other leaders of congregations in this synod to support the Uniting American Families Act by communicating with their elected representatives, encouraging them to co-sponsor and to support both these bills and a just, comprehensive reform of U.S. immigration law.

**Sponsors**

The Rev. Gigie Sijera-Grant

The Rev. Ryan W. Roberts

The Rev. Stacy Marsh

Church Council, St. Mark's, Baltimore

Mr. John Carter

Mr. Brad Schlegel

The Rev. Dale Dusman