**Resolution 2019-2: Global Church Sunday**

WHEREAS, as Christians we understand that we are joined together in a holy communion that crosses borders, barriers, and boundaries and extends through space and time to all the people of God, and

WHEREAS, as we are taught in Ephesians “there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all” (Eph. 4:4-6, NRSV), and

WHEREAS, our synod has Companion Church relationships with the Mara Diocese of Tanzania, the Tampere Diocese of Finland, and the Estonian Lutheran Church, and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Delaware-Maryland Synod is joined in partnership with churches and fellowships around the world, including being a member of the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation, and

WHEREAS, several congregations throughout the synod have longstanding partnerships with congregations in various countries in addition to our official synodical Companion Churches, and

WHEREAS, we are committed to pray for and support global action and justice through several denominational, ecumenical, and inter-faith agencies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Delaware-Maryland Synod ELCA Assembly encourages its congregations to set aside congregational time for a Global Church Sunday to be held in 2020 on the last Sunday of January – January 26, 2020 or another time more convenient to the congregation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Global Church Sunday bring attention and seek prayer for all of the relationships listed above and may be incorporated in worship, educational opportunities, special speakers, music, or other means that are reasonable at the discretion of the congregation. Members of the Companion Synod Task Forces for Finland & Estonia, and Tanzania would be resources to help plan such a program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that consideration be given to make a special offering to a ministry that supports the ministry and mission of the church worldwide. Some suggestions might include Young Adults in Global Mission, the ELCA Global Church Sponsorship program, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran World Relief, or ELCA World Hunger; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of our congregations commit themselves to finding out more about the work of the church around the world, and incorporating that into their ministry and prayer life, recognizing that we share a holy fellowship made possible in Christ, and that is lived out as a global community on this planet Earth.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Joseph Lettrich St. John’s Lutheran, Westminster, MD

Chair, Estonia & Finland Task Force

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Reference & Counsel Recommendation: Positive.