**Resolution 2019-3: Concerning Congregational Advocacy**

WHEREAS, we are a Church that shares a living, daring confidence in God’s grace; and

WHEREAS, Lutheranism has a long history of active public life; and

WHEREAS, efforts are now underway to rejuvenate the Public Policy offices in Delaware and Maryland; and

WHEREAS, our country’s division on social issues negatively affects the lives of millions of people; and

WHEREAS, we as Christians are called to be peacemakers and a light to the nations; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA constitution states: “Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every ordained minister shall: speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God’s love for the world” (u.31.12.a.7); and

WHEREAS, our voices can make a difference in determining the future policies of Delaware and Maryland, as well as the United States;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that all congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod (“the synod”) be encouraged to keep their members informed on current state and national public policy by having at least one, but not limited to one, member to serve as a congregational advocate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Policy Offices shall provide training for these advocates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congregation Councils be requested to encourage the members of the Delaware-Maryland Synod to participate fully in public life by voting and by regularly contacting their state & federal representatives and sharing their opinions on pending legislation.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Gordon Simmons Delaware Lutheran State Public Policy Officer

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Reference & Counsel Recommendation: Positive.