

**Resolution on Unauthorized Use of Church Property by
Governmental Authorities**

1 WHEREAS, the Minneapolis Area Synod at its 2006 assembly supported a just and
2 comprehensive immigration reform, and

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4 WHEREAS, such a reform is currently being debated in Congress, and

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6 WHEREAS, recent raids by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) police in
7 Worthington and Willmar have separated children from their parents, and illegally detained
8 US citizens of Latino descent, and

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10 WHEREAS, on May 19, 2007, ICE and other police agencies, including the MN Bureau of
11 Criminal Apprehension used the parking lot of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (15th
12 Ave) without permission to stage a raid in south Minneapolis, which caused fear in the
13 community and mistrust for governmental authorities, and

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15 WHEREAS, such actions diminish the effectiveness of the ministry of St. Paul's and other
16 congregations that work with immigrant communities, by creating a climate of fear and
17 mistrust, therefore be it

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19 RESOLVED, the Minneapolis Area Synod (MAS) strongly disapproves of the unauthorized
20 use of church property for use in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actions, and
21 that such disapproval be communicated to Governor Pawlenty, Senators Coleman and
22 Klobuchar and Congressional Representatives representing the territory of the synod.

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The Reference and Counsel Committee recommends adoption of this resolution.