

**Memorial Calling for ELCA Support of a U.S. Department of Peace**

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace who calls us to love our neighbors and to be at peace with one another; and

WHEREAS, citizens of the United States and people around the globe desire nonviolent approaches to conflict resolution so that God’s children live in peace; and

WHEREAS, we applaud and seek to augment the marvelous work the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) does to promote peace in our world; and

WHEREAS, the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA on August 20, 1995 adopted FOR PEACE IN GOD’S WORLD, a social statement on the responsibility of the church to work for peace; and

WHEREAS, House Resolution 808 (HR808) would implement action in keeping with the goals stated in FOR PEACE IN GOD’S WORLD by creating a cabinet-level Department of Peace; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA’s former Director International Relations and Human Rights, the Rev. Dr. James Vigen, wrote in a letter, dated November 14, 2005, that “The goals of this legislation {HR808} are worthy and well in line with our ELCA Social Statements on seeking peace, and are certainly ones we would support”; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to endorse HR808 by calling on the Unit for Church in Society to notify its co-workers in the nationwide network of state public policy advocacy offices, and the Members of the United States House of Representatives, of this church’s support for HR808; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to call for the Communication Services unit to provide ELCA congregation members and staff with information about HR808 through all appropriate media including, but not limited to, *The Lutheran* magazine and the ELCA website.

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