RC2009-9

Advocating Permanent Resident Status for Liberian People

WHEREAS, the country of Liberia experienced a civil war lasting almost 15 years; and

WHEREAS, it has only been five years since peace has been established; and

WHEREAS, it has only been three years since Presidential elections have established political stability; and

WHEREAS, it has only been two years since the Truth and Reconciliation process has been established; and

WHEREAS, many displaced people from Liberia have settled in the Minneapolis area; and

WHEREAS, there are many congregations in the Minneapolis Area Synod where Liberians are members; and

WHEREAS, many of the displaced were forced to leave without refugee status; and

WHEREAS, the "temporary protected status" which the U.S. Congress has issued for over 11 years does not provide many of the benefits of permanent residency such as eligibility for college loans and scholarships, application for citizenship, and application for sponsorship; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly go on record as supporting U.S. Congressional Bill S656, titled, "**Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 2009**"; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Office of the Bishop contact the Minnesota U.S. Senators and their U.S. Representatives representing the congressional districts in the Minneapolis Area Synod to convey this decision.

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Adopted by:	North Minneapolis Conference in Assembly on March 23, 2009	
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