

TO SUPPORT THE CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND

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WHEREAS, the current Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) strategy (*Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine*, 2005 Pre-Assembly Report), adopted by the Churchwide Assembly in Orlando, August 2005, urges ELCA members to learn about and support the Christians in the Holy Land, in particular the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jerusalem and the Holy Land (ELCJHL); and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, under the leadership of the Working Group on the Middle East (WGME), has adopted resolutions at past assemblies, including the last assembly held in June 2006, encouraging its members to learn about and support the Lutheran schools in the Holy Land and Augusta Victoria Hospital; and

WHEREAS, the current conditions in Israel and Palestine, including the building of the separation wall, have caused a more complex burden on our Lutheran sisters and brothers to the point of destabilizing the basic needs of daily life, and threatening the future existence of Lutheran institutions in that land; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. Munib Younan, the bishop of the ELCJHL, has repeatedly asked ELCA members to support the five schools and community services with financial, humanitarian, and prayerful support; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tawfiq Nassar, the administrator of Augusta Victoria Hospital, a project of the Lutheran World Federation and aided by Advocate Health Care, has asked for financial support and help from ELCA members; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly reaffirm its commitment to the ELCA's advocacy initiative to stand in solidarity with the ELCJHL, its schools and agencies, and Augusta Victoria Hospital; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the assembly designate November as "Palestinian Christian Solidarity Month" and urge congregations to plan a special event during the month that includes educational activities and fund-raising for the ELCJHL Scholarship Fund and the hospital's Augusta Victoria Poor Fund; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the assembly urge synod leaders and members to learn more about the situation facing the ELCJHL and Augusta Victoria Hospital to become active advocates by

38 contacting members of the U.S. Administration and Congress on behalf of Palestinian
39 Christian concerns; and be it finally

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41 RESOLVED, that in keeping with the ELCA *Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine*, the
42 2007 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly urge the bishop, the synod council, and
43 other concerned leaders to participate in interfaith coalitions, such as the Chicago Faith
44 Coalition on Middle East Policy and Christians for Middle East Peace, in advocating on
45 behalf of Palestinian concerns.

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47 Submitted by:

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49 The Rev. Paul F. Koch, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Chicago, Ill.

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