

Reference and Counsel is recommending the following resolution to the assembly for consideration and adoption.

Whereas Presiding Bishop Eaton along with other religious leaders, issued a statement addressing concerns over a recent US government policy which has resulted in the separation of children from their parents when they come to our nation's border.

Whereas our own reading of scripture (Matthew 19:14) as well as our sense of human decency and morality leads us to conclude that this policy defies the will of God.

Whereas "the world community has a responsibility to aid nations that receive refugees and to help change the situations from which they have fled."¹

Whereas as representations of Christ we need to provide mental, physical and emotional support for families.

Whereas the ELCA Churchwide strongly endorses the AMPARO activities accompanying minors.

Whereas we are called to be ambassadors for Christ, showing God's grace and love into the world, we seek to provide safety for children and protect them from harm;

Therefore, be it resolved that we join our Presiding Bishop in calling for an end to this practice of separating children from their parents and/or guardians when they come across the border.

Be it further resolved that we encourage each brother and sister and every congregation to pray for the children and families that are suffering and will suffer due to this policy.

And be it further resolved that we continue praying and living out our baptismal calling, as we urge our sisters and brothers to contact and continue to press our congressional leaders to act on this policy until this practice is stopped.

Resolution submitted by:

The Rev. Scott Silcox, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Hinckley, OH

The Rev. Patrick J. VanDeMotte, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Conneaut, OH

The Rev. Sharon Brown, Salem Lutheran Church, Wooster, OH

The Rev. Erin Burns, Dean Eastern Conference, Emmanuel, New Springfield, and St. John, Petersburg.

¹ ELCA Social Statement, "For Peace in God's World," 1995