



## Supplemental Report A of the Memorials Committee



*August 14, 2013*

**The Memorials Committee received nine motions from members of the Assembly prior to the deadline of 9:30 pm last evening and considered each of them at its meetings Tuesday morning, August 13, 2013. Our recommendations are incorporated into our supplemental report below.**

### **Revised Recommendation for Category A6: Immigration Reform**

**To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Northeastern Pennsylvania, Lower Susquehanna, New Jersey, Southwestern Pennsylvania and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synods regarding comprehensive immigration reform;**

**To advocate for the adoption of comprehensive immigration reform legislation, consistent with guidance articulated in the ELCA message on "Immigration" and as set forth by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services:**

- **Provide an earned pathway to lawful permanent residency and eventual citizenship for undocumented immigrants and their families**
- **Ensure the humane and just enforcement of U.S. immigration laws, specifically by reducing the use of immigration detention and expanding the use of community support programs for immigrants who do not need to be detained**
- **Protect families from separation and ensure an adequate supply of visas for families seeking to reunite**
- **Provide adequate resources and protections to ensure the successful integration of refugees, asylees, survivors of torture and trafficking, unaccompanied minors, and other vulnerable migrants**
- **Ensure the protection of U.S. citizen and migrant workers;**

**This legislation should provide a reasonable path to citizenship for undocumented individuals currently living and working in the United States, and set fair immigration quotas that are not discriminatory;**

**To call on rostered leaders, in their preaching and teaching, to promote an understanding of immigration issues that addresses welcome, promotes concern for the vulnerable, and calls believers to foster the highest possible level of moral discourse in church and society;**

**To call on congregations to engage in prayerful, reasoned discussion and education on issues related to immigration, availing themselves of resources prepared by the ELCA and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service;**

**To call on rostered leaders and congregations of the ELCA to communicate with the President of the United States, Senators, and Members of Congress, to develop and pass such comprehensive immigration reform legislation in the current session; and**

**To call on the presiding bishop of this church to continue to communicate to members of Congress the ELCA's position on immigration reform.**

**We have removed for separate consideration Memorial 5 from Category A6 of the Metropolitan Washington, DC Synod related to the 75th anniversary of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). The Committee moves its adoption.**

### **From Category A6: Immigration Reform**

**To receive with gratitude the memorial from the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod related to 75 years of welcoming migrants and refugees through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS);**

**To declare Sunday, June 22, 2014, as Refugee Sunday; and**

**To request the presiding bishop to:**

- invite congregations to tell the stories of their acts of welcome to refugees and migrants—signs of witness, mercy, and life together;**
- utilize ELCA communications mechanisms to share these stories and inspire action throughout 42 2014; and**
- encourage congregations and organizations to engage with and support the LIRS mission of welcoming the stranger through gifts of time, talent, and treasure.**