

1 **RESOLUTION TO REACTIVATE LUTHERAN ADVOCACY ILLINOIS**

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3 WHEREAS, in its first social statement approved in 1991, "The Church in Society: A
4 Lutheran Perspective," the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
5 (ELCA) committed to "work with and on behalf of the poor, the powerless
6 and those who suffer, using its power and influence with political and
7 economic decision-making bodies to develop and advocate policies that
8 seek to advance justice, peace and the care of creation;" and

9 WHEREAS, the liturgy for the Affirmation of Baptism describes the faith practices that
10 grow out of our baptism (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, page 236)
11 including the intent to strive for justice and peace in all the earth;" and

12 WHEREAS, staffing of Lutheran Advocacy-IL was supported by Lutheran Social
13 Services of Illinois (LSSI) until February 2016 when the position of Director
14 of Governmental Relations was eliminated due to the organization's
15 restructuring and because the employee in this LSSI position also served
16 as the Director of Lutheran Advocacy-Illinois, Lutheran Advocacy-IL has
17 become inactive, and

18 WHEREAS, ELCA Advocacy maintains an active State Public Policy Office network
19 and will work with and support synods in their efforts to engage in public
20 policy; therefore be it

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22 RESOLVED, that a task force of laypeople and clergy with knowledge and experience
23 in advocacy be established by the bishop's office to ensure that a voice
24 for public policy in Illinois is established. In order to ensure a unified voice
25 with the other synods in Illinois, the task force is to seek a working
26 relationship with those synods. The task force is to report its
27 findings/progress/recommendations to the bishop's office in time for the
28 fall council meeting.

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30 Submitted by:

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32 The Rev. Linda Covey, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Schaumburg, Ill.
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