

Resolution 3 – 2013 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly
Establishment of a Refugee Resettlement Task Force
Submitted by Ascension Lutheran Church, Waukesha

Resolution Summary: *Supporting the establishment of a Greater Milwaukee Synod Refugee Resettlement Task Force, and encouraging congregations to become involved or renew their involvement in welcoming the stranger through active participation in refugee resettlement.*

Greater Milwaukee Synod Refugee Resettlement Task Force

Whereas, Wisconsin congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its predecessor bodies have been involved in sponsoring refugees since 1974, beginning with families and individuals fleeing conflicts in Southeast Asia; and

Whereas, In the past three years, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) through Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (LSS) has welcomed over 500 refugees from many countries, including Burma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Palestine, Somalia, and Sudan; and

Whereas, The 2003 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee passed CA03.05.10 **Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**, which includes “To call on congregations and individuals to support Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and consider sponsoring a refugee family, asylum seeker, or unaccompanied child.”; and

Whereas, The consistent witness of scripture urges welcome and hospitality for the stranger and outcast (e.g. Matthew 25:35); therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That a Refugee Resettlement Task Force is formed whose purpose will be to

- Raise awareness of refugee needs,
- Encourage congregations to consider co-sponsorship of arriving refugees,
- Facilitate communication between service providers (LSS and LIRS), volunteers, and the refugee communities,
- Be a voice for those who often have no voice in our society; and

RESOLVED, That congregations and individuals of the Greater Milwaukee Synod lift up in prayer and action the needs of all displaced people.