

## **Resolution from the Synod Council – Synod Task Group**

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ instituted the church, saying to Peter, “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it,” as recorded in Matthew 16:18; and

WHEREAS, St. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians, 14:40, that “all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner;” and

WHEREAS, the current administrative structure of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, consisting of eleven conferences, dates to the formation of the synod in 1988; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware-Maryland Synod today has changed dramatically over the years and faces very different challenges and opportunities than it did almost 30 years ago, not the least of which is a dramatic decline in income which raises concerns related to staffing levels; and

WHEREAS, the synod’s strategic missional plan, “Vision 2018: Discerning God’s Will,” which was adopted with near unanimity at the 2015 Synod Assembly, calls on the Synod Council to “study and evaluate the current conference structure by 1/1/2018;” therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Delaware-Maryland Synod meeting in assembly hereby directs the Synod Council to form a Task Group for the purpose of evaluating our synod’s current structure, programs and staffing; and be it further

RESOLVED that this Task Group will strive to involve as many people as possible in its deliberations through the creative use of internet surveys, focus groups, one-on-one interviews and town hall meetings; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Task Group will bring a report and recommendations to the 2017 Synod Assembly, including possible constitutional and by-law changes that may become necessary.

Submitted by:

The Synod Council of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA