

## **RESOLUTION 2016:2**

*Introduced by:* Rev. Robert Bryan, Followers of Christ Prison Ministry; and the Nebraska Synod Justice Committee

WHEREAS, The constitution of the ELCA makes clear the commitment of this church to listen to, deliberate with, and address its members and the broader society on social concerns; and

WHEREAS, To participate in God's mission, this church shall nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world (4.02.e.); and

WHEREAS, To fulfill these purposes, this church shall study social issues and trends, work to discover the causes of oppression and injustice, and develop programs of ministry and advocacy to further human dignity, freedom, justice, and peace in the world (4.03.l.); and

WHEREAS, The 1991 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA approved "A Social Statement on: The Death Penalty" to help define and develop priorities and directives for this church's advocacy and corporate social responsibility and to help shape the conscience of Christians by appealing to their faith, moral convictions, and reason; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That, prior to the Nebraska Death Penalty Initiative on November 8, 2016, called and lay leaders of the Nebraska Synod, will make the ELCA Social Statement on the Death Penalty readily available in their congregations and encourage prayerful study and opportunities for discussion; and

RESOLVED, That, church members are called upon to give the Social Statement on the Death Penalty serious consideration as they form their own judgments on eliminating the death penalty in Nebraska.

**RECOMMENDATION & RATIONALE OF THE NEBRASKA SYNOD COUNCIL:** That Resolution 2016:2 be adopted by the 2016 Nebraska Synod Assembly.

## **RESOLUTION 2016:3**

Resolution 2016:3 was withdrawn at the request of the introducer.