**A Call for a Coordinator for the African Descent Strategy of the Delaware-Maryland Synod**

WHEREAS the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted and approved the “Plan of Action for Ministry in African Descent Communities,” on August 11, 2005, at its Churchwide Assembly; and

WHEREAS the various mission goals in this strategy challenge people of African Descent within Lutheranism to live out in a variety of ways and through various callings the will of God which promotes justice, healing and human dignity for all; and

WHEREAS a Strategic Plan of the Delaware-Maryland Synod for congregations within the African Descent Communities on its territory was approved by the Synod Council on May 15, 2010, and subsequently approved by the Synod Assembly, 2010; and

WHEREAS the strategy offers a vision and plan of action that guides efforts to provide leadership and support to the Delaware-Maryland Synod and congregations as they reach out in witness to the gospel with and among peoples of African Descent, and to provide a framework for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the programmatic activities in developing new congregations and in supporting established congregations and engaging visionary leaders in the church; and

WHEREAS an African Descent Strategy is vital for the sustenance, growth, and understanding of African Descent Lutheran congregations in urban/suburban communities of the Delaware-Maryland Synod; and

WHEREAS an African Descent Strategy provides a platform for voices, experiences, and perspective of the underrepresented in the membership of the Delaware-Maryland Synod; and

WHEREAS to accomplish the goals as outlined in the above approved strategy a part-time Coordinator is essential; and

WHEREAS the full participation and financial support of the Delaware-Maryland Synod is required to successfully execute the strategy as agreed upon by its voting members at the 2010 Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly;

 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Delaware-Maryland Synod act on the resolution passed during the 2010 Synod Assembly;

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a person be engaged by the Synod Council of the Delaware-Maryland Synod as a part-time Coordinator of the African Descent Strategy in agreement with the understanding of “full participation and financial support” of the Delaware-Maryland as recommended and agreed upon in the original resolution “beginning with the 2012 Faith Spending Plan;”

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Bishop in consultation with Churchwide Partners, the Budget Development Committee of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, and other existing synod committees identify financial support of $18,000 per year for a three-year engagement of a Coordinator for the African Descent Strategy on behalf of the Delaware-Maryland Synod to support our efforts as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to become more inclusive and representative of all of God’s people.

Submitted by the following:

The Rev. Eric T. Campbell Augsburg Lutheran Church

Marion Boston St. John Lutheran Church

The Rev. Titus Clarke People’s Community Lutheran Church

Sheron Chaplin Augsburg Lutheran Church

The Rev. Churchill Wortherly All Saints Lutheran Church

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