



BOLD & BOUNDLESS

2025 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

June 6–7, 2025

Resolution Number: 2025 – 013CB

Date Submitted: April 1, 2025

Title: Ratify of Constitution Change for Synod Seal

Primary Sponsor: Synod Council, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

Whereas, the 2024 Synod Assembly of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod passed Resolution Number 2024-008 titled “Synod Seal” by a greater than two-thirds vote; and

Whereas, Resolution Number 2024-008 is attached below for reference; and

Whereas, per the Constitution and Bylaws of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod †S18.13 “...amendments to this constitution may be adopted ... :
a. ... having been approved by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly, an amendment may be adopted unchanged by a two-thirds vote at the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.” ; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the 2025 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly ratify the amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod as adopted by the 2024 Synod Assembly via Resolution Number 2024-008.

Resolution Number: **2024-008**

Date Received: April 1, 2024

Title: Synod Seal

Primary Sponsor: Synod Council, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

Whereas, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod states: “S1.21. The seal of this synod is a cross with three united flames emanating from the base of the cross and three entwined circles beside the

cross. The name of this synod and the year of its constituting convention form the circular outer edge of the seal.”; and,

Whereas, only the text description of the seal is included in the Constitution; the interpretation of the text into a graphic is not included; and,

Whereas, while we recognize the flames in the description represent the flames of Pentecost and the Holy Spirit, the seal could be interpreted to be a burning cross. A burning cross is one of the most potent hate symbols in the United States, used for intimidation and terror; and,

Whereas, a symbol of hate is the opposite of the image of the love of God in Jesus Christ, and should not be associated with the Synod; and,

Whereas, the seal is a required clause in the Constitution, but the description is determined by the Synod; and,

Whereas, the seal should only be used for official church documents; it is currently included on letters of call; and,

Whereas, the seal that is currently used on official church documents is not as described in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, but is as shown; and,

Whereas, the synod seal is currently the same as described in the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA, with the exception of the text on the outer edge. The interpretation of the ELCA text as a graphic is as shown; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C Synod in assembly amend the Synod Constitution and Bylaws to align with current practice as follows:

“S1.21. The seal of this synod is three united flames emanating from the base of the cross. The name of this synod and the year of its constituting convention form the circular outer edge of the seal. a world with a cross segmenting the globe in the center of the seal with the words METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD ELCA circling the outer edge of the seal.”