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3 **RESOLUTION ON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT**
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5 **WHEREAS** Jesus clearly states in Matthew 25:35, “For I was hungry, and you gave
6 me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger, and you welcomed
7 me.”; and
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9 **WHEREAS** Lutheran Social Ministries’ work is rooted in this call to hospitality and
10 care; and
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12 **WHEREAS** Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) is one of the affiliates of Global
13 Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, LIRS) that resettles
14 legally vetted refugees from across the world in North and South Carolina; and
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16 **WHEREAS** “the resettlement of legal refugees through LSC’s New Americans
17 Program is consistent with our biblical foundation and American values,” LSC
18 President and CEO Ted W. Goins, Jr. said in a statement; and
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20 **WHEREAS** on February 2, 2025, representatives of the Executive Branch of the
21 Federal Government singled out “Lutheran Family Services” around the country
22 and said, “Now it’s the ‘Lutheran’ faith (this use of ‘religion’ as a money laundering
23 operation must end).” The Department of Government Efficiency, said, “The DOGE
24 team is rapidly shutting down these illegal payments.”; and
25

26 **WHEREAS** in this country, one in 50 Americans is served through a Lutheran Social
27 Ministry. These social ministries provide food, clothing, behavioral health lifelines,
28 and many more essentials for disaster victims, those fighting for recovery, and the
29 less fortunate in our society; and
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31 **WHEREAS** the finances of organizations like Lutheran Services Carolinas are public
32 information, and anyone can view the 990 forms on the organization’s website at
33 www.lscarolinas.net; and
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35 **WHEREAS** on January 24, 2025, LSC, Global Refuge, and other resettlement
36 organizations across the country were notified of the stop-work order halting the
37 longstanding, bipartisan-supported resettlement of legal refugees. Since the
38 beginning of the fiscal year (October 2024), LSC has welcomed 435 refugees to
39 North and South Carolina; and
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42 **WHEREAS** there are tens of thousands of refugees who have already been
43 approved by an extensive vetting process and are now stranded overseas with few
44 or no belongings because they were waiting for their travel schedules. Many of
45 these refugees have lived in refugee camps for more than 20 years or now are the
46 second generation living in refugee camps waiting for their applications to be
47 reviewed; and

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49 **WHEREAS** resettlement organizations like Lutheran Services Carolinas, Global
50 Refuge, and many others are waiting for reimbursement for services already
51 delivered to refugees who arrived in the United States since October, prior to the
52 January stop-work order. Lack of payment for services already completed is
53 creating hardships for the organizations, and they have been forced to lay off or
54 furlough employees due to the payments that have been withheld by the federal
55 government; and

56
57 **WHEREAS** the work of Lutheran Services Carolinas' New Americans Program has
58 been a staple in its services for over 50 years beginning with work of resettlement
59 completed by Lutheran Social Services (LSS). LSC has worked with the U.S. Office
60 of Refugee Resettlement and as an affiliate of Global Refuge to help immigrants
61 and refugees integrate into communities across North and South Carolina; and

62
63 **WHEREAS** refugees arrive with little more than the clothes on their backs, relying
64 on resettlement organizations like LSC for assistance with housing, healthcare
65 access, English education, school enrollment, and job placement. These services
66 have been stripped away from the recently arrived refugees who have come to
67 the U.S. since October 2024; therefore be it

68
69 **RESOLVED** that, the NC Synod, gathered in Assembly May 29-31, 2025, condemn,
70 through the passing of this resolution, the false accusations lodged against our
71 humanitarian work through LSC, Lutheran Social Service (LSS) agencies, and
72 Global Refuge; and

73
74 Be it further **RESOLVED** that the bishop of the NC Synod send letters to all NC
75 congressional representatives, senators, and the White House calling on
76 policymakers from North Carolina to urge the White House and Congress to
77 reinstate these vital services immediately. Refugee resettlement is a shared
78 responsibility between federal, state, and local partners, and without swift action,
79 countless families will face devastating uncertainty; and

Be it further **RESOLVED** that the bishop of the NC Synod additionally request that the above stated reimbursements for services completed be paid in full to refugee resettlement organizations like Lutheran Services Carolinas and Global Refuge; and

Be it further **RESOLVED** that the bishop of the NC Synod send correspondence to congregations urging all members of synod congregations to stand in solidarity with legal refugees and immigrants by contacting their NC congressional representative and both senators to urge the White House and Congress to reinstate these vital services immediately. Furthermore, this correspondence shall urge members to support Lutheran Services Carolinas and Global Refuge in the holy work of welcoming the stranger, helping resettle refugees vetted and entrusted to our care by the U.S. government, with or without the government's financial assistance; and furthermore, we call on congregations, clergy, and synod leaders to seek meetings with our congressional delegation and senators to advocate in person for these resolutions; and

Be it further **RESOLVED** that the bishop of the NC Synod send correspondence to the presiding bishop and secretary of the ELCA; to state leaders of our Full Communion partners as well as to the statewide leaders of other faith traditions communicating this resolution and encouraging them to also contact elected leaders about this concern; and

Be it further **RESOLVED** the contact information (to find your representative click here: [Find Your Representative | house.gov](#)) for all congressional representatives and both senators be included with the correspondence to each congregation.

Submitted by the Rev. Greg Williams, retired
March 2025

Mr. John Fleming, Christ the King, Cary
Ms. Virginia Hultquist, First, Greensboro
Mr. David Charters, Christ the King, Cary
Ms. Heidi S. Rixman, Chief Development Officer,
Lutheran Services Carolinas; member, Community
in Christ, Cornelius
Mr. Ted W. Goins, Jr., President and Chief Executive
Officer, Lutheran Services Carolinas; member, St.
John's, Salisbury
The Rev. Jonathan Schnibben, Grace,
Hendersonville

The Rev. Paul Carlson, Calvary, Morganton
The Rev. James Demmel, St. John's, Salisbury
The Rev. Dan Joyner Miller, St. John's, Salisbury
The Rev. Scott Berry, Lutheran Church of Our
Father, Greensboro
The Rev. Lori H. Carter, St. John's, Salisbury
The Rev. Daniel Pugh, Christ the King, Cary
The Rev. Paul A. Wollner, Augsburg, Winston-Salem
The Rev. Michael Beery, Community in Christ,
Cornelius
The Rev. Christina L. Auch, Grace, Hendersonville



North Carolina Synod
ELCA

The Rev. Russell Peek, Epiphany, Winston-Salem
The Rev. Lisa Beery, Community in Christ, Cornelius
The Rev. Richard Graf, retired
The Rev. Emily Hartner, Holy Trinity Charlotte
The Rev. Dr. Julius Carroll, retired
The Rev. Beth Kearney, retired

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