

**#R-1-06**

**Submitted 5-1-06**

Resolution Concerning State “Moral Budgets”

Submitted by the Indianapolis Conference as approved on April 30, 2006

**WHEREAS**, Indiana and Kentucky residents – especially those with minimal financial resources – rely on the legislation, administration and police functions of their State or Commonwealth for protection and regulation of life safety issues and as a safety net for public and individually catastrophic health concerns; and,

**WHEREAS**, members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are bound in the Gospel of Jesus Christ which insists on justice and sustenance for poor and those unable to manage their personal affairs, regardless of nationality, gender, age or citizenship; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Rev. Dr. Mark Hanson, joined the leaders of the four major denominations with ecumenical ties to ELCA in urging the U.S. Congress to adopt a budget that meets the moral test of serving the common good; and,

**WHEREAS**, revenues accessible by state and local governments, and legislative allocation of such revenues, have become volatile due to extensive changes in the nation’s business economy and ever-increasing pressure from interest groups; and,

**WHEREAS**, an increasing share of state and local government budgeted spending is being allocated for the specific benefit of special interests, by way of example only, professional sports teams, already profitable businesses and horse racing tracks, thereby depriving health and welfare programs of such funding; and,

**WHEREAS**, the State of Indiana and many of its locally responsible government jurisdictions have for several years been nationally identified for poor control of water and air pollution, inaccessible mental health services, antiquated sanitary sewers and under-funded pension plans for public employees;

(need a similar “whereas” for Kentucky issues); and,

**WHEREAS**, the Indiana and Kentucky legislatures in recent years have frequently considered adding revenue and limiting spending through measures inconsistent with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, by way of example only, operation or recognition of gambling lotteries and casinos, while at the same time reducing or denying health care assistance to residents lacking resources for payment;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Synod communicate to state, Commonwealth and local legislators, and other elected officials, our advocacy for funding of public safety, health and welfare issues and deplore the public sanction of exploitative businesses which offend the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in language parallel to that of our national church; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this Synod Assembly encourages all of its conferences and congregations to communicate in like manner with legislators and other elected officials representing their areas, concerning such issues.

Wayne M. Shipe, Conference Chairperson