

## AGENDA 2.2.15

# Expansion of 'New Home New Community New Hope' training project

---

## PROPOSED MOTION

*Submitted by Commission for Social and Bioethical Questions*

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Synod encourage the expansion of the 'New Home New Community New Hope' training project into congregations of the LCA, in order to foster a culture of welcome to new arrivals from a refugee background and that the LCA provide the needed resources to do so.

## REASONS FOR THE MOTION

1. At the 2015 General convention of Synod the following proposal was passed unanimously.  
*That Synod encourages congregations and individuals, and affirms those who are already active in their support, to welcome new arrivals from refugee backgrounds to their communities and that they work to understand their specific needs and actively support them in their resettlement.*
2. This proposal encouraged all church members to advocate for the vulnerable and to speak out against injustice, as well as providing hospitality and community support.
3. During the past synodical term, Lutheran Community Care SA/NT obtained funding from Act for Peace to develop and run cultural awareness training for ten Lutheran congregations across the LCA. The sessions were called 'New Home, New Community, New Hope' and were designed to encourage a culture of welcome in our church communities, with a focus on Syrian and Iraqi refugees, in order to support new arrivals from a refugee background.
4. The Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions (CSBQ) is proposing that this project should expand to reach more congregations and to be inclusive of groups beyond Syrian and Iraqi refugees.
5. In order to do this it will need the encouragement of General Synod and resourcing.