

A FAITHFUL RESPONSE TO CARING FOR GOD’S CREATION

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WHEREAS, God calls us in *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice* (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America [ELCA] social statement, 1993), to find ways to protect the fruitfulness and viability of the earth and the sustainability of human communities; and

WHEREAS, human activity significantly contributes to changes to the earth’s environment resulting in accelerated climate change and degradation of the land, air, and water; and

WHEREAS, our earth’s environmental crisis is causing social, political, and economic upheaval; and

WHEREAS, the global impact of this crisis is felt most by the poorest and most vulnerable people; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that all congregations of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod seek to help their members become more informed on the issues related to climate change and other threats facing our planet and its creatures, and on the possible solutions that can be taken through the educational resources available through this synod’s Environmental Concerns Working Group (ECWG) and other sources; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations seek to undertake actions to increase energy efficiency (such as Energy Star appliances and energy efficient lighting systems), conservation, recycling, cleaner, renewable fuel choices (for example wind, solar, and biomass), green practices for building and remodeling, and setting aside one Sunday a year near Earth Day as an “annual day of teaching and reflection” on Christian stewardship of the earth; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations seek to encourage their members to sign up for the ELCA’s e-Advocacy program and to advocate for energy policies at the state and national levels, that will promote cleaner, renewable, and more efficient energy use for all sectors of our society; and be it further

RESOLVED, to memorialize the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to encourage the ELCA Churchwide organization, synods, and congregations to address this issue and commit to action; and be it further

RESOLVED, to encourage the synod to develop methods of congregational accountability on environmental stewardship.

Submitted by:

- 41
42 The Rev. Ruth E. VanDemark, Wicker Park Lutheran Church, Chicago, Ill.
43 Mr. Justin Skolnik, Wicker Park Lutheran Church, Chicago, Ill.
44 Mr. David M. Glover, Augustana Lutheran Church, Chicago, Ill.
45 Mr. James E. Valentine, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, Ill.
46 The Rev. Susan Rippert, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, Ill.
47 Ms. Betty Birner, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, Ill.
48 The Rev. Gail Heidtke, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, Ill.
49 Ms. Elizabeth McKay, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, Ill.
50 Mr. Philip W. Bertram, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, Ill.
51 Mr. David Harney, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, Ill.
52 The Rev. Larry Morkert, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, Ill.