

FAIR TRADE

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WHEREAS, Israel's prophets called for a just society and protection of the poor against exploitation by the rich; and

WHEREAS, Jesus proclaimed "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor"; and

WHEREAS, as members of the worldwide Church we are called to take part in this mission of Christ by acting in solidarity with the poor and suffering of the world; and

WHEREAS, fair trade systems promote human rights, fair wages, humane working conditions, and environmental protections; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA and Lutheran World Relief recognize that international trade is an important tool for development, especially when paired with human rights, labor, and environmental standards, and have been partners in promoting fair trade products, such as coffee, tea, and chocolate, from developing nations, especially in Africa and Latin America; and

WHEREAS, a number of congregations in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod sell fair trade products in their churches and educate their members about the reasons for buying fair trade products; and

WHEREAS, fair trade systems and policies promote the advantages of buying fair trade products, but on a systematic and global level; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Social Statement on Economic Life, "Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All" calls for "scrutiny of how specific policies and practices affect people and nations that are the poorest, and changes to make policies of economic growth, trade, and investment more beneficial to those who are poor"; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran World Relief is a member of the Interfaith Working Group on Trade and Investment, which works to promote fair trade systems and policies and the ELCA is a signer of the Working Group's "Principles of Trade and Development"; therefore, be it

42 RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA encourages its
43 congregations to adopt fair trade practices and enter into critical study of
44 the effects of fair trade on human rights, the environment, and
45 development.

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47 Submitted by:

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