

ENCOURAGE ENERGY STEWARDSHIP

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WHEREAS, we are called to cherish and tend God's creation as a part of our loving and serving God and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, we in the industrialized world are consuming energy and Earth's resources in a way that is both unsustainable in the future and unfair to those in the developing world; and there are disturbing scientific reports of environmental degradation, global climate change, record rates of species extinction, and a depletion of non-renewable resources that should give us pause; and

WHEREAS, human activity, especially the over-consumption of energy and natural resources, appears to be a critical driver in these changes in climate and environmental distress, both causing harm to God's creation and exacerbating already difficult situations for millions living with poverty and hunger, as weather extremes such as flood and drought increase; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, recognizing the gravity of these threats has long been committed to addressing environmental issues as part of our call to justice, sustainability, and solidarity with affected communities and, along with our partners in the Lutheran World Federation and Lutheran World Relief, and to working to alleviate hunger, poverty, and unsustainable living conditions globally; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the congregations, administrative offices, and outdoor ministry facilities of this synod be encouraged to offer a public witness of energy stewardship by committing themselves to the resolution to reduce carbon footprints adopted by this assembly in 2009; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the congregations, administrative offices, and outdoor ministry facilities of this synod be invited to share this information with ~~the~~ one another, the synod office and, where applicable, on ELCA congregational reporting forms, and subsequently also share what energy-saving steps were taken, and what measurable energy savings realized, as evidenced in a lower carbon footprint measurement.

Submitted by:

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