

1 **RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ILLINOIS POOR PEOPLE’S CAMPAIGN**

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3 WHEREAS, the prophetic ministry begun in 1967 by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and
4 others called for a “revolution of values” in the United States of America and invited people who
5 had been divided to stand together against three forms of systemic evil: militarism, racism, and
6 economic injustice; and

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8 WHEREAS, this prophetic ministry was built into a national coalition of poor people, allies, and
9 grassroots and community organizers called the Poor People’s Campaign; and

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11 WHEREAS, the current social fabric of the United States of America and her territories is
12 stretched thin by widening economic inequality, criminalization of the poor, racism and
13 xenophobia dividing the poor, budget increases for a well-funded military and ecological
14 degradation adversely affecting the poor, and the largest tax breaks for our wealthiest neighbors
15 leaving fewer public resources available to care for the poor; and

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17 WHEREAS, after more than a decade of work by grassroots, community, and religious leaders,
18 organizations, and movements, the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival
19 is being renewed to bring an end to systemic racism, poverty, militarism, environmental
20 destruction, and related injustices; and

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22 WHEREAS, in mid-May 2018, the Poor People’s Campaign launched 40 days of direct action
23 and civil disobedience in Illinois, at least 24 other states, and the District of Columbia; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is a broad, deep,
26 national, long-term moral movement rooted in the leadership of poor people and reflecting great
27 moral teachings in order to build a just, sustainable and participatory society; and

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29 WHEREAS, the ELCA’s Social Statements: Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective (1991);
30 Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture (1993); Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and
31 Justice (1993); and Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All/Economic Life (1999) all provide
32 theological grounding and support for the goals, methods, and efforts of the Poor Peoples’
33 Campaign; and

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35 WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod has recently established an endowment for the
36 purposes of supporting, establishing and furthering ministries by congregations serving within
37 conditions of chronic, concentrated poverty; and

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39 WHEREAS, various congregations, individuals and affiliated ministries within the Metropolitan
40 Chicago Synod already have been volunteering with the Illinois Poor People’s Campaign;
41 THEREFORE, BE IT

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43 RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA, endorse the Illinois Poor People’s
44 Campaign (ILPPC) as soon as feasible; AND BE IT FURTHER

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46 RESOLVED, that the Metro Chicago Synod, ELCA, with the support of the current Metropolitan
47 Chicago Synod ILPPC volunteers, use its various communication formats to invite
48 congregations, individuals, affiliate organizations, and ministry partners to join the ILPPC; AND
49 BE IT FURTHER

51 RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council establish a Mission on the Margins
52 Endowment Fund Grant Process by which Metropolitan Chicago Synod congregations and
53 affiliated ministries may participate actively in the ongoing, future work of the Illinois Poor
54 People's Campaign.

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56 Submitted by:

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