

RESOLUTION #1 – Increasing Our Giving to ELCA World Hunger

- WHEREAS, the Eastern North Dakota (EaND) Synod has gathered together at this 2011 assembly under the theme “God’s work. Our hands. Meeting the Needs of a Hungry World”; and
- WHEREAS, II Corinthians, Chapter 8, verses 13 and 14a reads: “I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need”; and
- WHEREAS, the ELCA’s constitution states the church shall serve in response to God’s love to meet the human needs of those in our world who are hungry and thirsty and in need of dignity and justice; and
- WHEREAS, the number of hungry people in the world, during the past three years, has grown from 840 million to slightly less than one billion; and
- WHEREAS, the current yearly giving for our Eastern North Dakota Synod to ELCA World Hunger, as of year-end 2010 is \$1.45/baptized member, a decrease of 76 cents/baptized member from the previous year’s giving; and
- WHEREAS, 38 %, 84 of the 223 congregations of our Eastern North Dakota Synod, made a contribution to ELCA World Hunger during 2010; therefore be it
- RESOLVED that each congregation in the Eastern North Dakota Synod challenge their membership to raise their annual giving to the world hunger program of the ELCA, exceeding the current giving level of \$1.45/baptized member; and be it further
- RESOLVED this 2011 Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly, using the inspiration, resources, and encouragement provided by this assembly, be a stimulus for every congregation to address the tremendous needs of an impoverished and hungry world.

Submitted by the Hunger and Justice Committee of the Eastern North Dakota Synod.

SA.11.05.03 Motion by Dr. Joel Kangas, second by Rev. Jon Nelson to adopt resolution #1. **Motion Carried.**

RESOLUTION #2 – A Memorial Calling the Church to Speak and Act to Prevent Bullying, Harassment and Related Violence

- WHEREAS, "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice with it" (I Cor 12:26); and
- WHEREAS, in the ELCA Social Statement on Education (2007) we declared, "The ELCA expects communities of learning and teaching to be safe places. We recognize that school safety is an issue for all students, staff and teachers. Unfortunately, incidents of bullying, intimidation, and other forms of violence are not unusual. We affirm that personal safety and security are essential for optimal teaching and learning"; and
- WHEREAS, research indicates children with disabilities or special needs are at a higher risk of being bullied than others (Rigby, K.2002, *New Perspectives on Bullying*) and has concluded that bullying around issues of sexual orientation, non-conforming gender behaviors, and dress was the most common form of bullying, second only to issues of appearance (e.g. body size and disability-*The National School Climate Survey 2005*); and
- WHEREAS, The ELCA Social Statement "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" (2009) states, "[The church] will attend to the particular needs of children and the families of those with actual or perceived differences in sexual orientation or gender identity because they are especially vulnerable to verbal, physical, emotional, spiritual, psychological, and sexual abuse"; and
- WHEREAS, increased media attention has made us acutely aware of tragic consequences (including youth suicide) if steps are not taken to prevent bullying, harassment, and other related forms of violence; and
- WHEREAS, the voice of the church addressing the intersection of race, economic status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and physical ability is a powerful witness to the healing and life affirming Gospel promise; therefore be it
- RESOLVED that the Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly of the ELCA encourages new partnerships among our congregations, the synods, the churchwide organization, outdoor ministries, campus ministries, Lutheran School Association, Lutheran social service organizations, public schools, Lutherans Concerned/North America, counseling centers and governmental organizations in order to support and offer

preventative programs addressing bullying, harassment, and other related violence, especially with higher risk populations; and be it further

RESOLVED that these partnerships be encouraged to create or join with existing preventative programs which

- a) utilize positive, inclusive, empowering and developmentally appropriate materials,
- b) raise participants' awareness about the issue,
- c) focus on prevention,
- d) seek to change bystander behavior into ally behavior,
- e) create partnerships between youth and adults;

and be it further

RESOLVED that these partnerships seek funding for these efforts from a combination of funding sources not otherwise accessible individually, such as foundation grants, synod and other Lutheran organizational grants (for example, Thrivent, Wheat Ridge Ministries, Women of the ELCA, etc), private and governmental funding sources; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Eastern North Dakota Synod of the ELCA memorialize the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to encourage, support and publicize new partnerships in ministry that emerge in our church addressing the prevention of bullying, harassment, and related forms of violence, especially with higher risk populations.

Submitted by St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND

SA.11.05.04 Motion by Rev. Julie Johnson, second by Dr. John Pederson to adopt resolution #2. **Motion Carried.**

RESOLUTION #3 – **Fair Trade Coffee & Tea**

- WHEREAS, churches and organizations in our society are high consumers of coffee and tea; and
- WHEREAS, the growing and marketing of these products has developed a system that is grossly unjust toward the growers and producers in developing nations, which are the only nations that produce these products; and
- WHEREAS, ~~the Fair Trade movement has become a leading voice in addressing the issue of this injustice; and~~ **the Fair Trade movement as promoted by the Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project: Equal Exchange has become a leading voice in addressing this issue of injustice; and**
- WHEREAS, the greening of the globe is an issue in our world; and
- WHEREAS, in affirmation of our Baptismal covenants {Confirmation} we make a commitment to “strive for justice and peace in all the earth and to serve people following the example of Jesus”; therefore be it
- RESOLVED that ~~the EaND Synod St. John Lutheran Church (Fargo) Green Committee memorialize the Eastern North Dakota Synod to commend~~ all congregations who have been using Fair Trade coffee and tea, and to encourage all congregations of our synod to use these products for their congregational use.
- Submitted by James T. Alger, member, St. John Lutheran Church, Fargo and Rev. Aanen D. Gjovik, interim pastor, St. John Lutheran Church, Fargo.
- SA.11.05.05** Motion by Ms. Faye Bubach, second by Rev. Jim Alger to adopt resolution #3. **Motion Carried as Amended.**
- SA.11.05.06** Motion by Rev. Roger Dykstra, second by Rev. Jim Alger to amend the resolution by striking the words in the resolved "St. John Lutheran Church (Fargo) Green Committee memorialize the EaND Synod" - strike "to" in line two and line three and replace with the following: "that the EaND Synod commend", etc **Motion Carried.**
- SA.11.05.07** Motion by Mr. Bob Hetler, second by Rev. John Andreasen to strike the third whereas clause. **withdrawn by the authors**
- SA.11.05.14** Motion by Rev. Jim Alger, second by Mr. Harmon Abrahamson to amend Resolution #3, the third whereas as follows: WHEREAS, The Fair Trade movement as promoted by the Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project: Equal Exchange has become a leading voice in addressing this issue of injustice; and **Motion Carried.**

RESOLUTION #4 – Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Thrivent Choice Program

- WHEREAS, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and the predecessor fraternal organizations, Lutheran Brotherhood and Aid Association for Lutherans, have been strong supporters of our Lutheran congregations; and
- WHEREAS, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has given direct financial support to our congregation in recent years of \$1,000 to \$1,300 per year; and
- WHEREAS, this past year our congregation received \$276 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans through the new Thrivent Choice Program; therefore be it
- RESOLVED the Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly request Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to return to the former system of allocating monies to congregations; and be it further
- RESOLVED the Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly direct the Eastern North Dakota Synod Bishop and the Eastern North Dakota Synod Council to convey our wishes to the management and the board of directors of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Submitted by Christ the King Lutheran Church Council, Ellendale, ND
and Pastor Gaylen Sylvester

SA.11.05.15 Motion by Rev. Beth Peterson, second by Mr. Eugene Elhard to adopt resolution #4. **Motion Carried.**

RESOLUTION #5 – To Memorialize the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to withdraw the proposed Social Statement: Genetics, Faith, and Responsibility from consideration.

WHEREAS, the proposed Social Statement: Genetics, Faith, and Responsibility has not had a positive effect on some of our members; and

WHEREAS, for some, the statement does not directly relate to the spreading of the Gospel; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly memorialize the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to withdraw the proposed Social Statement: Genetics, Faith, and Responsibility from consideration.

Submitted by the following ELCA members: 16 individual members of Grace Lutheran Church, Sheyenne, ND; 9 individual members of Calvary Lutheran Church, Oberon, ND; 12 individual members of First Lutheran Church, Sheyenne, ND; 20 individual members of Grandfield Lutheran Church, Sheyenne, ND; and Pastor Natasha Woitzel-Kolles

SA.11.05.16 Motion by Rev. Natasha Woitzel-Kolles, second by Ms. Jan Loe to adopt resolution #5. **Motion Failed.**

RESOLUTION #6—To rescind the roster policy change adopted by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly adopted the following resolved*:
that the ELCA commit itself to finding a way for people in such publically
accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same- gender relationships to serve as
rostered leaders of this church.

WHEREAS, for many in the EaND Synod there is still strong objection to allowing
leaders living in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender
relationship to be rostered.

WHEREAS, we wish to affirm this church's prior practice of allowing for the rostering of
chaste/celebrate gay or lesbian leaders to be ordained and serve in this church,
therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the EaND Synod Assembly memorialize the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to
direct the proper channels within the ELCA to revert the document of "Vision and
Expectations" and the policies governing rostering leaders to its pre-2009
Churchwide Assembly content.

Submitted by Perry Ostmo, Trinity Lutheran Church, Sharon, ND

*CA09.05.26, page 366, "Reports and Records: Assembly Minutes":

SA.11.05.18 Motion by Mr. Perry Ostmo, second by Mr. Jim Ostlie to adopt
resolution #6.

An objection to consideration brought to the assembly floor by
Rev. Jerry Rosin, second by Ms. Jessica Arneson. Objection to
consideration was sustained by the voting members by a vote of
289 to 65.

RESOLUTION #7 – To revise the current rostering policies of the ELCA.

WHEREAS, Martin Luther says: *Marriage should be treated with honor; from it we all originate, because it is a nursery not only for the state but also for the church and the kingdom of Christ until the end of the world* (Luther's Lectures on Genesis 1-5) and;

WHEREAS, Jesus also addressed the sanctity of marriage as a union that God alone forms between two people in Mark 10: "But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."; and

WHEREAS, traditional understanding of marriage is at risk of eroding as more and more public policies and societal norms recognize a state of living together as equivalent to marriage; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the Eastern North Dakota Synod in assembly memorialize the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2011 to revise the standards in "Vision and Expectations" and governing policies to uphold that all rostered leaders* limit sexual intercourse to the confines of marriage, as defined by the state in which the rostered leader is officially rostered.

Submitted by Finley Evangelical Lutheran Church, Finley, ND

Signed by Tor Bergstrom, Council President and Rev. Denise Parrello, Pastor

*rostered leaders include: pastors, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers

SA.11.05.19 Motion by Mr. Tor Bergstrom, second by Rev. Denise Parrello to adopt resolution #7. **Motion Failed.**

RESOLUTION #8 – **Maximize Food Production**

- WHEREAS the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization predicts food production will need to double by 2050, and
- WHEREAS converting additional land to agricultural production could negatively impact environmentally sensitive regions, and
- WHEREAS the poor of the world are most vulnerable during times of food shortages; therefore be it
- RESOLVED that the Eastern North Dakota Synod of the ELCA, for the sake of the poor and the environment, encourage farmers to ~~adopt technologies that~~ maximize food production in a sustainable manner on land currently utilized for agricultural production; and be it further
- RESOLVED that the Eastern North Dakota Synod of the ELCA memorialize the ELCA at its Churchwide Assembly to encourage the same.

Submitted by Paul Mathiason, Keith Johnson, and Beau Bateman, members of Calvary Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, ND; and Pastor Roger Dykstra, Calvary Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, ND.

SA.11.05.20 Motion by Mr. Keith Johnson, second by Rev. Roger Dykstra to adopt resolution #8. **Motion Failed.**

SA.11.05.21 Motion by Mr. Perry Ostmo, second by Mr. Craig Carlson to amend resolution #8 by striking the words in line two of the first resolved "adopt technologies that". **Motion Carried.**

RESOLUTION #9 – 2012 Compensation and Benefits Guidelines for Pastors and Associates in Ministry

WHEREAS, congregations of the Eastern North Dakota Synod request and appreciate the aid and counsel of their companion congregations in this synod and synod leadership in ascertaining fair, equitable, and adequate compensation and benefits for pastors and professional staff; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern North Dakota Executive Committee has discussed and approved these guidelines and commends them to the 2011 Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly and to the congregations of this synod for deliberation and use; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2011 Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly adopt and commend to the congregations of this synod these guidelines; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this assembly approve the publication and distribution of these "Guidelines" to congregations of this synod through the usual and appropriate means employed by the synod office.

Submitted by the Eastern North Dakota Synod Council.

SA.11.05.22 Motion by Dr. Joel Kangas, second by Ms. Sarah Lovas to adopt resolution #9. **Motion Carried.**