

Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly 2017

Resolution on Ecological Justice

WHEREAS, the 1993 ELCA Social Statement *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice* affirms that, “we are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth;” and

WHEREAS, in 1993, with *Caring for Creation*, we realized the urgency was already “widespread and serious, according to the preponderance of evidence from scientists worldwide [of] dangerous global warming, caused by the buildup of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide” from the burning of fossil fuels, and that “action to counter degradation, especially within this decade, is essential to the future of our children and our children's children. Time is very short;” and

WHEREAS, in the 1999 ELCA Social Statement *Economic Life: Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All*, this church declares that “Too often the earth has been treated as a waste receptacle and a limitless storehouse of raw materials to be used up for the sake of economic growth, rather than as a finite, fragile ecological system upon which human and all other life depends;” and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran World Federation has already, with its 2017 Reformation three-fold theme “Salvation: Not for sale. Human beings: Not for sale. Creation: Not for sale.”, signaled its intention to include creation at the center of global 2017 anniversary commemorations; and

WHEREAS, the current federal administration is proposing to remove all of the \$73 million dollars funding for the Chesapeake Bay Restoration; and

WHEREAS, the current federal administration is encouraging the United States to exclude itself from the Paris Climate Agreement; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Delaware-Maryland Synod urge congregations to exemplify institutional responsibility by practicing energy conservation, purchasing energy efficient items and investing in renewable energy, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Creation Care Team of the Delaware – Maryland Synod assist congregations in providing education for individuals and our neighborhoods and communities on local, national and international ecological justice issues, seeking to work in partnership with other organization in this work, and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations equip individuals to advocate for ecological justice issues with local, state and federal authorities, and be it further

RESOLVED that each congregation and worshipping communities in the Delaware-Maryland Synod be encouraged to designate an annual Ecological Justice Sunday.

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