

## RESOLUTION 3

### *Energy Stewardship*

**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 numerous scientific reports of environmental degradation, global climate change, a record rate 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 resources, appears to be a critical driver in these changes in climate and environmental distress, causing both 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, committed 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: (1) Measuring the greenhouse gas emissions (i.e., "carbon footprint") of the facilities they own, to establish a baseline starting point; and (2) With the assistance of **(the synod green team name or other coordinating entity)** [see Addendum to this resolution], conducting an energy audit to determine what options there are for reducing energy use; and (3) Making a commitment to decrease their carbon footprint by a certain percentage over a specified period of time through energy conservation, efficiency, or clean energy measures; 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 **[synod green team]**, 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; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that this synod memorialize the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at its 2011 Churchwide assembly to challenge all expressions of the ELCA to reduce their energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by at least 5 percent per year with the ultimate goal of reducing these emissions 25-40 percent by 2020, and to share this commitment and steps taken to achieve it in a public way in official publications and communication channels of this church.

Resolution Topic: Energy Stewardship

Name of Person Submitting Resolution: Joyce M. Kuhlman & Dr. Myron Kuhlman – Stewardship Focus Team

Signature of Person(s) Submitting Resolution: Signature on file at synod office and with the Reference & Counsel Committee

Signature of Pastor or Congregational President: Signature on file at synod office and with the Reference & Counsel Committee

Congregation: Covenant Lutheran Church      City/State: Houston, TX