

## **Resolution: Ending Hunger As Core Conviction**

Whereas 800 million people worldwide are chronically undernourished and 1.2 billion people live on less than \$1 per day; and

Whereas 30 million people in the United States, including 13 million children, cannot afford an adequate and balanced diet; and

Whereas 189 countries, including the United States, have committed to cutting in half extreme hunger by the year 2015 by establishing the Millennium Development Goals; and

Whereas advocacy organizations, like Bread for the World and the Institute for Food and Development Policy (FoodFirst), have established that there is a sufficient food supply to feed the earth's population; and

Whereas leading economists now argue that ending chronic hunger is an attainable goal for the first time in human history; and

Whereas the Holy Scriptures are very clear in numerous passages that God desires justice for the poor (for example, Jeremiah 22:15-16 and Luke 6:20-21) and that it is God's will that the hungry be fed (for example, Psalm 146:5-7 and Matthew 25:34-35); and

Whereas the church of Jesus Christ is uniquely equipped by its identity and mission to be the leaven that stirs the peoples and nations of the world to end chronic hunger; therefore be it

Resolved, that the \_\_\_\_\_ Synod make ending hunger a core conviction of its ministry and mission; and be it further

Resolved, that this synod memorialize the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in all of its expressions—congregations, synods and churchwide—to make ending hunger a core conviction for this church at the 2005 Churchwide Assembly; and be it further

Resolved, that what ending hunger as a “core conviction” means for a congregation is that as a regular dimension of its ministry and mission it

- Engages in local efforts to feed the hungry and promote community economic development
- Initiates with other congregations, especially with full communion partner congregations, advocacy of laws and policies to end hunger in the local community
- Supports advocacy of laws and policies to end hunger on the state, national, and global levels (for example, through the initiatives of Bread for the World and the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs)
- Contributes generously to the World Hunger Appeal of the ELCA;

and be it further

Resolved, that what ending hunger as a “core conviction” means for a synod is that as a regular dimension of its ministry and mission it

- Equips congregations in their efforts to feed the hungry and promote community economic development on the local level
- Initiates with the leaders of other judicatories, especially with full communion partners, advocacy of laws and policies to end hunger on the state, national, and global levels (for

example, through the initiatives of Bread for the World and the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs)

- Encourages congregations to contribute generously to the World Hunger Appeal of the ELCA;

and be it further

Resolved, that what ending hunger as a “core conviction” means for the ELCA churchwide is that as a regular dimension of its ministry and mission it

- Equips congregations in their efforts to feed the hungry and promote community economic development in the local level
- Supports synods in their efforts to end hunger on the state, national, and global levels
- Initiates with the leaders of other church bodies, especially with full communion partners, advocacy of laws and policies to end hunger on the national and global levels (for example, through the initiatives of Bread for the World and the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs)
- Encourages seminaries to include advocacy of justice for the hungry as a focus of curriculum
- Instructs the leaders of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal to give leadership to these efforts
- Continues to undertake relief efforts and implement sustainable development in partnership with Lutheran World Relief, the Lutheran World Federation, and in cooperation with other people of faith in situations of extreme hunger;

and be it further

Resolved, that this synod memorialize the Church Council of the ELCA to make ending hunger a core conviction of the ELCA in the strategic planning process leading to any possible churchwide restructuring proposal; and be it further

Resolved, that this synod memorialize the ELCA to engage in a process together with the Lutheran World Federation and bring a proposal to the Lutheran World Federation’s Eleventh Assembly to make ending hunger a core conviction of the Lutheran World Federation, just as the Lutheran World Federation’s Sixth Assembly at Dar es Salaam in 1977 declared the ending of apartheid in South Africa a matter of *status confessionis*.

Background: Bread for the World Institute, “Overview of the Millennium Challenge Account”; “The Millennium Declaration to End Hunger in America”; David Beckmann and Arthur Simon, *Grace at the Table: Ending Hunger in God’s World* (New York: Paulist Press, 1999); Craig L. Nesson, *Give Us This Day: A Lutheran Proposal for Ending World Hunger* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2003); and Ronald J. Sider, *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger* (Dallas: Word Publishing, 1990).

Resolution drafted by Craig L. Nesson