

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

Whereas 800 million people worldwide are chronically undernourished and 3 billion people, almost half of the world's population, live on less than \$2.50 per day; and

Whereas in the U.S. 1 in 6 people (17%) face hunger and 1 in 5 children (20%) live in households with food insecurity; and

Whereas the Millenium Development Goals Report of 2015 states that: "Millions of poor people still live in poverty and hunger, withouth access to basic services"; 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 has compassion on 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 heaven 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 next 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
- 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
- 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
- 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 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 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*.

Resolution drafted by Craig L. Nesson