

Resolution: 12
Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do pass
Action Taken: Adopted as Amended
(by show of hands)

Subject: Asking for a renewed focus on our common mission of ending poverty and injustice Resolution

Source: Pastor Aaron Matson, Leganger and Wood Lake Lutheran Churches

WHEREAS, Scripture tells us that the Lord says, "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?" (Isaiah 58: 6-7); and

WHEREAS, Scripture also reads, "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8); and

WHEREAS, Scripture further reads, "Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy." (Proverbs 31:8-9); and

WHEREAS, Scripture tells us that Jesus says in a parable that "just as you did to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40); and

WHEREAS, our Lutheran heritage has a strong tradition of caring for and speaking out on behalf of those in need, including the words of Martin Luther in the Large Catechism "If you send a naked person away when you could clothe him, you have let him freeze to death. If you see anyone suffering from hunger and do not feed her, you have let her starve." (*Book of Concord, Large Catechism, Explanation of the Fifth Commandment*); and

WHEREAS, in the covenant God made with us in Holy Baptism and that we vow to continue when we affirm our baptisms, we pledge "to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth" (*Lutheran Book of Worship and Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Holy Baptism and Affirmation of Baptism*); and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran heritage of caring for and speaking out on behalf of those in need is continued today in the social statements of the ELCA "Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective," and "Economic Life: Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All," and in our work together in the forms of Lutheran World Relief, ELCA Disaster Response, ELCA World Hunger, ELCA Advocacy Ministries, ELCA Global Mission, and many other programs and ministries at the congregational, synodical, and churchwide level, within our denomination and with ecumenical partners; and

WHEREAS, there is more work to do: people who need food, clothing and shelter, who suffer under unjust economic and social structures and systems in our communities and around the world; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly affirms the work being done at the congregational, synodical, and churchwide level on behalf of those in need; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly pledges to renew our focus and commitment to working with those programs and ministries at the congregational, synodical, and churchwide level of the ELCA, and our ecumenical partners, in common mission to end poverty and injustice in our communities and around the world; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly renews our focus on the clear proclamation of Jesus Christ and His cross and His resurrection, so that His justice may be brought to our communities and around throughout the world, and so that we may be freed from the bondage of ourselves in order to serve our neighbors; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly urges other synods to join us in this renewed focus toward our common mission to end poverty and injustice in our communities and in our world.