

1 **A Resolution Urging the Minneapolis Area Synod**
2 **to Take Action Concerning the Global Threat of Climate Change.**
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4 **Whereas**, the 1993 ELCA Social Statement Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice
5 affirms that “we are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth;” and recognized that
6 the urgency was already “widespread and serious, according to the preponderance of evidence
7 from scientists worldwide [of] dangerous global warming, caused by the buildup of greenhouse
8 gases, especially carbon dioxide” from the burning of fossil fuels, and that “action to counter
9 degradation, especially within this decade, is essential to the future of our children and our
10 children's children;” and declares that the ELCA will seek to incorporate the principles of
11 sufficiency and sustainability in our life. Therefore: “We will, in our budgeting and investment of
12 church funds, demonstrate our care for creation;” and
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14 **Whereas**, the 1999 ELCA Social Statement Economic Life: Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for
15 All recognizes that “the growth of economic activity during the twentieth century, and the
16 industrialization and consumerism that fueled it, radically changed the relationship between
17 humans and the earth. Too often the earth has been treated as a waste receptacle and a
18 limitless storehouse of raw materials to be used up for the sake of economic growth, rather than
19 as a finite, fragile ecological system upon which human and all other life depends;” and
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21 **Whereas**, climate research is clear that burning fossil fuels is the major source of rising levels of
22 carbon dioxide, and that to limit global warming to no more than the two degrees Celsius (3.6
23 degrees F.) agreed upon as the maximum "red line" limit by leaders of 167 countries, including
24 the United States, at the 2009 Copenhagen Climate Conference, we would need to limit future
25 carbon dioxide emissions to about 13 billion tons per year, down from the current global total of
26 more than 30 billion tons a year (Rob Hogg, America's Climate Century, p. 57); and
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28 **Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Minneapolis Area Synod communicate to its congregations
29 the destructive effects of climate change on all God's creation, and disproportionately on those
30 living in poverty and in the least developed countries, the elderly and children, and those least
31 responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases; and promote amongst its congregations
32 and their members the need to shift to a sustainable energy plan in a way that is both just and
33 compassionate; and be it further
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35 **Resolved** that Minneapolis Area Synod encourage its Bishop to seek out opportunities in
36 cooperation with the Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy and the leaders of other
37 denominational judicatories, to communicate these concerns to the people of Minnesota and its
38 legislative bodies; and be it further
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40 **Resolved** that the Minneapolis Area Synod ask Portico Benefit Services to inform Synod
41 participants of its current efforts to address this issue with respect to the environmental screen
42 of the Social Purpose Fund; and that the Synod encourage its participants in Portico plans to
43 prayerfully consider directing their contributions to said Fund; and be it further
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45 **Resolved** that the Minneapolis Area Synod encourage its pastors and congregations to make
46 use of the resources of Lutherans Restoring Creation for faith-based congregational initiatives
47 addressing care of creation and the threat of climate change.
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49 Author: Dennis Ormseth, Holy Trinity, Minneapolis , dennisormseth@gmail.com, 651 646-4096
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51 Contact Person: Dennis Ormseth Holy Trinity, Minneapolis, dennisormseth@gmail.com
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