

13-03 RESOLUTION URGING A MORATORIUM ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

WHEREAS, God has created us and all that exists, given and preserves our bodies and all the necessities for life (The first Article: On Creation, Luther's Small Catechism); and

WHEREAS, the 1993 ELCA Social Statement Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice affirms that "we are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth;" and

WHEREAS, the 1999 ELCA Social Statement Economic Life; Sustainable Livelihood for All states "too often the earth has been treated as a waste receptacle and a limitless storehouse of raw materials to be used up for the sake of economic growth, rather than as a finite ecological system upon which human and all other life depends," and

WHEREAS, the process of Hydraulic Fracturing intentionally pollutes millions of gallons of fresh water with toxic chemicals, and

WHEREAS, there is evidence that the process of Hydraulic Fracturing has contaminated well water, contributed to air pollution and could be a threat to major sources of water supply,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the New England Synod of the ELCA go on record as opposing the use of Hydraulic Fracturing as a process for securing greater supplies of oil and natural gas, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New England Synod of the ELCA support a moratorium on the process of Hydraulic Fracturing in New England, until such time as it can be shown that the process is developed to the point of adhering to the standards of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts.

Submitted by the Congregation Council and the Creation Care Committee of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hartford, CT;

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