

## **Eco-Reformation in the Context of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod**

WHEREAS the 2013 Churchwide Assembly voted to “support and encourage synods, congregations, members, the churchwide organization, and agencies and institutions of this church to adopt and advocate for policies that reduce energy use, and with it our dependence on fossil fuels, as an expression of this church’s commitment to address climate change and to care for God’s creation” and “to re-examine lifestyles and environmental footprints as they relate to the climate crisis and to improve their stewardship of energy resources and promote care for God’s creation;” and

WHEREAS the Northeastern Minnesota Synod, meeting in assembly in 2014 voted to “reaffirm our calling and responsibility to be stewards of the earth,” and to “recognize Creation Care as integral to each faith practice, lived out in worship, service, study, and witness as a vital component of the church’s identity and vocation today;” and

WHEREAS the past two of three annual retreats to date lead by the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Creation Care Team have nurtured a growing network of congregations and leaders in earthkeeping practices through worship and educational resources, space for dialogue and sharing, and projects under the theme of “The Next Reformation;” therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northeastern Minnesota Synod, meeting in assembly and recognizing the need for ongoing reformation in the context of climate change, commit to participate as congregations and as a synod within the ELCA in becoming a church that practices creation care throughout its life and mission; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Northeastern Minnesota Synod, meeting in assembly, encourage each of the five Conferences of the Synod to dedicate one of its monthly gatherings each year for discussing creation care and the implications of embracing eco-reformation in congregational life, with the possible input or involvement of members from the Synod Creation Care Team.

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