

Report on Resolutions to the 2018 Synod Assembly

There were two resolutions presented to the 2018 Synod Assembly of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. Both resolutions were adopted at the 2018 Synod Assembly.

Resolution #1 RESOLVED that our Synod members and congregations be asked to sign up for the ELCA e-advocacy Network joining thousands of ELCA members at [http://ww.elca.org/Our - Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Advocacy](http://ww.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Advocacy) and the Lutheran Office of Public Policy in Wisconsin (LOPPW) <https://www.loppw.org/> and follow their Facebook pages in time to report back to the 2019 Synod Assembly

Resolution 2 RESOLVED that individual Lutherans and congregations of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin make special efforts to look beyond our own neighborhoods and communities to the world beyond our national borders, and FURTHER RESOLVED that our congregations and their members become more aware of our many global links, such as the Lutheran World Federation, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran immigration & refugee Services, Peace Not Walls and our Companion Synod in South Africa, FURHTER RESOLVED that each congregation be encouraged to choose one or more global ministries to receive special attention over the coming year.

2019 Proposed Resolutions

Encourage Congregations to Sign up for ELCA e-advocacy and LOPPW notices (Resolutions 1)

WHEREAS there are 48 million Americans, including 1 in 5 children in Wisconsin, who live in poverty, and

WHEREAS ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need and to assist them in multiple ways, and that our gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty, and

WHEREAS ELCA advocacy works for change in public policy based on the experience of Lutheran ministries, programs and projects around the world and in communities across the United States, and that the ELCA works through political channels upholding the biblical values of peacemaking, hospitality to strangers, care for creation, and concern for people living in poverty and struggling with hunger and disease, and

WHEREAS We believe that God uses our hands to serve and love our neighbor, and uses our voices through our advocacy efforts to restore our world, and that through faithful advocacy we live out our Lutheran belief that governments can help advance the common good, and

WHEREAS our synod members support ELCA World Hunger initiatives like Global Barnyard, and many more found at <http://www.elca.org/hunger>

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that our synod members are encouraged to sign up for the ELCA e-advocacy Network at <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Advocacy> and the Lutheran Office of Public Policy.

Reference and Counsel Committee Recommendation:

To bring to the floor of the Assembly for discussion and possible vote.

Reference and Counsel Committee Rationale:

This concern merits the attention of the Assembly

Resolution submitted by the East Central Synod of WI Global Mission Team and signed by:

Deb Martin

Rev. Mark Ziemer

Rev. Paul Andrew Johnson

Mary Jane Horvat

Peter Monnoja

Lucille Kirkegaard

Rev. Chuck Fluegel

Ben Haring

ECSW Resolution on 2020 Visit of ELCSA Western Diocese. (Resolution 2)

WHEREAS beginning with the formation of the ELCA in 1988, all sixty-five ELCA synods have companion relationships with the 140+ member churches of the Lutheran world Federation, and the companion relationship of our East Central Synod of Wisconsin is with the Western Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Southern Africa for more than twenty-five years;

WHEREAS Companion Synod relationship with the Western Diocese has English as a common language which provides exceptional opportunity to engage in direct, immersed congregation-to-parish matched relationship;

WHEREAS this relationship was deeply embraced and impacted on both sides by Crossways Camping Ministries' visits to the Western Diocese beginning in 2003 and through receiving summer staff from the Western Diocese since that time, and by the visit in 2005 of Bishop and Mrs. Dithale and the Moretele Circuit Women's league;

WHEREAS in the past seven years forty three congregations in our synod having sent or received visitors with their companion parish in the Western Diocese and our Bishops have participated in each others installation in 2014 and 2018 respectively;

WHEREAS a pattern for official visits has merged of coming or going every other year:

- 2012 Sixty-five from Western Diocese visited companion congregations in our synod
- 2013 (Year off) forty-one from ECSW visited companion parishes in the Western Diocese
- 2016 forty seven from the Western Diocese visited companion congregations in our synod
- 2018 forty-four from ECSW visited companion parishes in the Western diocese
- 2020 Western Diocese planning to visit companion congregations in our synod;
- 2022 ECSW visit to companion parishes in the Western Diocese

WHEREAS preparation is of great importance for both sending and receiving visitors so that we guard against entertaining, fixing or impressing the other and so that all visits and this relationship are rooted in accompaniment and focused on faith and experiencing each others life and setting;

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the East Central Synod of Wisconsin encourage all congregations of this Synod to develop a relationship with your companion congregation by inviting your companion parish to visit your congregation in 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the East Central Synod of Wisconsin recognize the effectiveness, value and uniqueness of a synod-wide companion relationship with a global partner and that the Bishop of our Synod and the bishop of the Western Diocese establish the dates and theme for companion visits in consultation with their staff and congregations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations use the resources and guidance posted on the ECSW Website of the ELCA Companion Synod Handbook, our Synod Staff, and Synod

Global Mission Team which will also be communicated through the Conferences and Conference Deans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations embrace and announce the purpose of this companion relationship is to lead us more deeply in to accompaniment, experiencing the global church, and in sharing our faith, culture, worship, witness, and action as companions in the Body of Christ.

Resolutions was submitted by Companion Synod Action Team of the Synod's Global Mission Team and signed by...

Rev. Paul Andrew Johnson

Mary Jane Horvat

Ben Harring

Susan Kalkarni

Peter Monnoja

Lucille Kirkegaard

Karen Torkelson

Rev. Churck Fluegel

Claudette Harring

Deb Martin

Reference and Counsel Committee Recommendation:

To bring to the floor of the Assembly for discussion and possible vote.

Reference and Counsel Committee Rationale:

This concern merits the attention of the Assembly

Encourage Congregations to use ELCA “Who is my Neighbor” VBS (Resolution 3)

WHEREAS we believe that God uses our hands to serve and love our neighbor and uses our voices through our advocacy efforts to restore our world, and that we live out our Lutheran belief that we can help advance the common good, and

WHEREAS our synod members support ELCA World Hunger initiatives like Global Barnyard, and many more found at <http://www.elca.org/hunger>

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that our congregations are encouraged to use the “Who is My Neighbor?” ELCA Vacation Bible School materials in 2019 available for download at <http://www.elca.org/hunger>

Resolution was submitted by the East Central Synod of WI Global Mission Team and signed by:

Deb Martin

Rev. Paul Andrew Johnson

Mary-Jane Horvat

Ben Harring

Peter Monnoja

Lucille Kirkegaard

Chuck Fluegel

Claudette Harring

Reference and Counsel Committee Recommendation:

To bring to the floor of the Assembly for discussion and possible vote.

Reference and Counsel Committee Rationale:

This concern merits the attention of the Assembly

Resolution on the Holy Land (Resolution 4)

WHEREAS the Holy Land, vital to three of the world’s major religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, is a rich and challenging place to visit, and

WHEREAS firsthand experience travelling in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories is vital to understanding the complexity of the current conflict for the people of Israel and Palestine, and

WHEREAS Bishop Emeritus Munib Younan, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, has invited ELCA members to come and visit stating; “We don’t want you to come [only] as tourists. We invite you to come as pilgrims , to walk side by side with us, your sisters and brothers in Christ in the Holy Land,” and

WHEREAS members of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin are preparing to travel with Bishop Gerald Mansholt on a trip that includes both visits to the holy sites **and** meetings with today’s Christians, Muslims and Jews living in Palestine and Israel, and

WHEREAS the ELCA has created excellent online resources for developing a comprehensive and balanced trip, including sample itineraries and contact information for arranging visits with Lutheran Ministries, <https://elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Peace-Not-Walls/Travel>

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That pastors, congregations and members of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin who plant trips to the Holy Land commit themselves to the ELCA’s practice of accompaniment with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and

BE IT FURHTER RESOLVED that the synod’s Global Mission Team will make information available on the synod’s website and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as people of faith, this synod wil pray for all those who travel, that the Lord will be with them and also pray for the people of all faiths with whom they meet on their pilgrimage.

Submitted by the Synod Global Mission Team and signed by:

Rev. Kurt Hoffman Our Savior’s

Lucille Kirkegaard

Deb Martin

Rev. Chuck Fluegel

Claudette Harring

Reference and Counsel Committee Recommendation:

To bring to the floor of the Assembly for discussion and possible vote.

Reference and Counsel Committee Rationale:

This concern merits the attention of the Assembly

