

Resolution on Environmental Protection - Oregon Synod Assembly 2016

A resolution should be titled and dated. The title should reflect the focus of the resolution.

“Whereas” statements lay out the the reasons and support for the action requested.

“Whereas” statements should be factual, not matters of prejudice or opinion.

References to studies or information is welcome, but not required.

- WHEREAS As members of the ELCA and stewards of God’s creation it is our moral and ethical responsibility to preserve this beautiful world that He has given us; and
- WHEREAS Climate change and global warming is threatening to destroy the environment that all creatures of this world depend upon for life; and
- WHEREAS Profit motive by corporations that are producing fossil fuels is largely responsible for climate change and global warming, as described by Naomi Klein’s well-documented book entitled This Changes Everything, Capitalism vs The Climate, showing much urgency as we are fast approaching a tipping point from which there may be no return; and
- WHEREAS Bishop David Brauer-Rieke in his recent visit expressed concern for the environment and recommended Naomi Klein’s book to our congregation as a means to raise awareness of the dangers of climate change; and
- WHEREAS The ELCA Global Mission Unit embraces “accompaniment” – an approach to God’s mission that entails “walking together in a solidarity that practices interdependence and mutuality”; and
- WHEREAS The ELCA teaches compassion and concern for the welfare of our sisters and brothers of all nations of this world through its local and global ministries; therefore be it
- RESOLVED That the ELCA in Oregon publicize information and encourage its members to influence legislators to adopt more stringent measures for protection of our environment; and be it further
- RESOLVED That the ELCA in Oregon encourage its members to divest from funds that support production of fossil fuels and invest in funds that support clean energy and manufacturing; and be it further
- RESOLVED That the ELCA in Oregon encourage its members through education to do what they can to be environmentally responsible.

“Resolved” statements indicate the actions being requested. They must request actions the synod can do.

(For example, “encourage congregations ...” or “publicize information ...”)

The Assembly cannot require congregations or our churchwide expression to act in any certain way.

Actions having financial costs or implications need to address funding.

Resolutions must carry the name or names of those submitting them. Only members in good standing of Oregon Synod congregations can submit resolutions to the Assembly.

Submitted by Donald Greenfield, Peace Lutheran, Burns, OR