

ELCIC RESOLUTION ON THE STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

Approved at the Eleventh Biennial Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
June 21-24, 2007

NC-07-11 MS that National Church Council recommends that we commit ourselves as a church to answer the call to respect the integrity of God's creation through an environmental stewardship initiative engaging our national, synodical, congregational and individual member expressions. **Carried.**

ADDENDUM #2 STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION INITIATIVE

From the Bulletin of Reports,
Eleventh Biennial Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, June 21-24, 2007

In Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the *Evangelical Declaration*.

We affirm that **God calls us**, through Word and Sacrament, to be disciples and to make disciples. Our discipleship is defined by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Our mission is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with people in Canada and around the world through the proclamation of the Word, the celebration of the Sacraments, and through service in Christ's name. On the basis of the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions:

We believe, teach and confess that everything we have is a gift from God entrusted to our nurture and care, and that the Christian life is a life of stewardship.

We believe, teach and confess that the Holy Spirit calls and gathers the whole church into the mission of God, which takes seriously both the reality of the world, and the reality of Christ, with equal care.

Therefore, we, as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, will celebrate and rejoice in the gifts which God has given us to carry out our mission in the world today. Where we see need, we will take action. We will use our gifts deliberately to be the people of God for others. We will be involved in mission by focusing on the following:

We commit ourselves as church to answer the call to respect the integrity of God's creation through an environmental stewardship initiative engaging our national, synodical, congregational and individual member expressions.

Implementation Strategy

The Stewardship of Creation Initiative is the first area of emphasis for the Global Hunger and Development Appeal's "Signs of Hope, Practices of Love Campaign" which is a campaign by our church aimed at increasing our involvement in the justice work which we share together.

Goals for the Stewardship of Creation Initiative

- To reduce the negative impact the ELCIC, at all levels, has on the environment.
- To increase the ELCIC's commitment to and understanding of environmental stewardship.
- To involve youth in this initiative and create opportunities for leadership development.

Key Components

- Web based resources to act as a guide for how congregations can “green”.
- Synod based organizing to get congregations involved in initiative.
- Accreditation process for congregations, with recognition of their involvement.
- Involvement of youth, and creating opportunities for leadership development.
- Integration with other programs, (Youth Gathering, GHDA’s Signs of Hope campaign, KAIROS’s energy campaign, stewardship etc.).

General Time Line

- June 2007–Launching of campaign at convention and launching of web site
- September 2007-Summer of 2008–Promotion through synod network and national communication means. With the goal of getting congregations involved and accredited.
- Spring 2008–meeting of coordinators
- Summer 2008–Renew the campaign at Youth Gathering and work to get more youth involved in the initiative

Responsibilities

The National Church will be responsible for:

- Coordinating the initiative nationally
- Speaking out on public policy issues that relate to the environment
- Promoting this initiative through its national communication media as appropriate
- Providing web based resources for this initiative which synods, congregations and individuals can use
- Integrating this with other related initiatives so that they can build on each other. This will possibly include the National Youth Gathering, the next national youth project, GHDA’s Signs of Hope Campaign, Kairos’ Energy campaign, our stewardship work and others as appropriate.
- Create an accreditation process for congregations that want to be recognized as a “Green Congregation”
- Host a coordinating consultation in the spring of 2008
- Examine its own practice to find ways to model stewardship of creation and adopt these practices as appropriate

Synods will be responsible for:

- Actively promoting this initiative to its congregations
- Appoint a staff person (staff time) or dedicated volunteer to be responsible for coordinating the initiative in the synod
- Organizing a Stewardship of creation group(s) in the synod to promote this initiative in the synod. If possible this group will also include youth (30 and under) and be used as an opportunity to provide leadership development for these youth. These groups could be either synodically or regionally based.
- Examining its own practices to find ways to model stewardship of creation and adopt these practices as appropriate.
- Congregation will be responsible for
- Promoting this initiative to its members
- Encouraging its members to practice environmental stewardship

- Seek to become a “Green Congregation” by examining its own impact on creation and seeking ways to minimize its negative impact and promote positive impacts on creation.

Individuals will be responsible for:

- Promoting environmental stewardship to others in their life.
- Examining their own practices to find ways to live responsible environmental stewardship.

Evaluation Parameters

- Number of congregations that become “greening congregations” This will be monitored by asking congregations to be accredited as a “green congregation,” providing them with a certificate and listing accredited congregations on our website. The goal will be 25% of parishes.
- The development of groups to promote the green initiative and the participation of youth in these groups.
- That the synod and National Church offices provide leadership by taking actions to reduce their impact on the environment. The goal will be 100% of synodical and national offices taking steps to reduce their negative ecological impact.
- A theology of “stewardship of creation” is promoted in the ELCIC.