



ELCIC Resolution on Climate Justice

Approved at the 2015 ELCIC National Convention

That the 2015 National Convention adopt the following “ELCIC Resolution on Climate Justice:”

As members of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)—A Communion of Churches, the ELCIC commits to joining the global Christian community, and people of all faiths and persuasions, on the journey for climate justice. This task is one that we can only achieve when we unite in a common cause, living out our joint destiny in this fragile, beautiful world which we all share.

The ELCIC affirms the position of the LWF and understands that:

- Climate change is real and influenced by human actions;
- Increasingly severe impacts are already being experienced on every continent, with growing economic and social costs;
- If we act now it will still be possible to keep global warming below the internationally agreed danger-threshold of an increase of 2 degrees Celsius. To achieve this, carbon pollution must be reduced quickly; and
- Climate change is a matter of social and economic justice, as it most affects the poorest people and displaces the most vulnerable.

As those who live in the resurrection hope of renewal and restoration for all of God’s creation, we believe we cannot stand by and ignore the impacts of Climate Change. *Creation groans under the weight of human action and inaction* (Romans 8:22). Our hope for justice and peace for all, and our trust in God, forms the impetus for this statement. We believe that taking global action now can make a difference.

The ELCIC supports the LWF in calling on world political and business leaders to:

- Design and agree on elements of a strong global response to climate change that reflects the strong and growing scientific and environmental evidence and draft an ambitious new climate agreement to tackle climate change in the coming decades;
- Urge heads of state and key decision makers to make it a personal priority to address the human contribution to Climate Change, and make firm commitments for deeper cuts in carbon pollution;
- Make national contributions meaningful by ensuring that they feature convincing targets to reduce carbon pollution while providing money to help poorer countries take climate action as well; and
- Respect the principles of equity, ensuring that the response includes provisions to assist the most

vulnerable communities to adapt to the impacts of Climate Change already being experienced, and to account for the loss and damage being caused.

The ELCIC calls on its members, congregations, synods and the National Church to:

- Take action now to initiate or strengthen policies and practices aimed at becoming sustainable and eco-friendly, with the goal of becoming carbon-neutral at organizational, congregational and personal levels by 2050;
- Register as an Accredited Greening Congregation through the Stewardship of Creation program of the ELCIC. <http://elcic.ca/Stewardship/Stewardship-of-Creation/default.cfm>
- Encourage others in the communion by sharing good practices through the LWF Facebook page "LWF for Climate Justice;"
- Engage in sustained climate justice advocacy with local and national governments in the perspective of COP20 in Lima, Peru, and all along the process leading to COP21 in Paris, France. This advocacy would be based upon the advocacy call of the LWF and the policy papers on climate justice of the ACT Alliance; http://www.actalliance.org/what-we-do/issues/climate-change/issueview?b_start:int=15
- Participate in ecumenical and interfaith climate justice initiatives in the local, national and regional contexts;
- Sign up to the #fastfortheclimate campaign on the 1st day of each month until December 1, 2015, at the beginning of COP21 in Paris; <http://www.lutheranworld.org/fastfortheclimate>
"We fast in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable who are unduly affected by extreme weather events. We fast to underline the urgency of the negotiations on climate change. We fast in many different places and faith communities worldwide, united in a common practice. We fast for climate justice."

This convention asks the National Bishop to:

- Write to the Prime Minister of Canada and other federal leaders expressing the ELCIC's concern for the climate and hopes for an effective global process through COP21 in Paris.
- Write to the LWF sharing this resolution as one response to the Call for Commitment by Member Churches.