

JUSTICE, ADVOCACY AND CARING FOR CREATION EDUCATION RESOLUTION

**Responses to questions in the following pages appear as submitted on the nomination forms.*

WHEREAS,

WHEREAS, God created heaven and earth and everything therein and proclaimed it good (Gen 1:1ff); and God has entrusted humankind with the care of the earth (Gen 2:15) and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has adopted social policy statements, "Caring for Creation" (1993) and "Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood" (1999) that call for economic and environmental justice, and

WHEREAS, carbon pricing is one policy tool to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel combustion (cf. EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA CHURCH COUNCIL November 11-13, 2021 Report from the Presiding Bishop), and

WHEREAS, over 3,500 of our nation's leading economists, including 28 Nobel Laureates and 4 former chairs of the Federal Reserve, issued a statement that argued "A carbon tax offers the most cost-effective lever to reduce carbon emissions at the scale and speed that is necessary," but also recommended "the revenue should be returned directly to U.S. citizens through equal lump-sum rebates," and concluded "The majority of American families, including the most vulnerable, will benefit financially by receiving more in 'carbon dividends' than they pay in increased energy prices;" (Economists' Statement on Carbon Dividends, Cf. The Wall Street Journal, January 17, 2019), and

WHEREAS, ELCA Advocacy has published a primer on "Carbon Pricing Basics" that provides an overview to the topic and identifies several principles rooted in ELCA social statements that should be used to assess carbon pricing proposals, and

WHEREAS, ELCA Advocacy does advocate for particular pieces of legislation after careful review and moral grounding in the ELCA's social statements, now, be it therefore

RESOLVED

RESOLVED, that the Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Assembly directs the Synod Council to urge the ELCA Church Council Executive Committee to direct ELCA Advocacy to advocate for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, or similar legislation during the 117th United States Congress and, if necessary, future Congresses, and

RESOLVED, that the Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod encourage congregations in our synod to utilize "Carbon Pricing Basics" and other comparable resources on carbon fee & dividend in adult education opportunities.

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(CONT)

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IMPLICATIONS OF RESOLUTION

In what way is this resolution helping congregations make disciples of Jesus Christ?

These resolutions call for advocacy on a policy that cares for creation and for education of the congregations in our synod on this policy.

What are the personnel implications within our synod (or churchwide)? Who will be responsible for implementations of the resolution?

No personnel implications

What is the financial impact of this resolution on the synod budget? If expenditures are required, what are the sources of income anticipated to accomplish the purpose of this resolution?

No Financial Impact

Resolution Topic

Justice Advocacy and Caring for Creation Education Resolution

Name of Person Submitting Resolution: Amandus Derr
Email of Person Submitting Resolution: amandusderr@ctk.org
Additional Person(s) Submitting Resolution. (if applicable):
None

Name of Pastor or Congregational President: Amandus Derr
Email of Pastor or Congregational President: amandusderr@ctk.org
Congregation name and address: Christ the King Lutheran Church
2353 Rice Blvd., Houston, TX 77005