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**COMPOSITE RESOLUTION TO
THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD
REGARDING
OUR CARE OF CREATION
FROM
THE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AND COUNSEL**

WHEREAS, the ELCA Social Statement *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice* states that, “We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are deeply concerned about the environment, locally and globally, as members of this church and as members of society” (*ELCA, A Social Statement on: Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice*. ©September 1993, ELCA, p.1); and

WHEREAS, “We see the despoiling of the environment as nothing less than the degradation of God’s gracious gift of creation” (*ibid*, p.2); and

WHEREAS, “Made in the image of God, we are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth” (*ibid*, p.2); and

WHEREAS, “Twin problems---excessive consumption by industrialized nations, and relentless growth of human population worldwide---jeopardize efforts to achieve a sustainable future” (*ibid*, p.4); and

WHEREAS, “The idea of earth as a boundless warehouse has proven both false and dangerous. Damage to the environment eventually will affect most people through increased conflict over scarce resources, decline in food security, and greater vulnerability to disease” (*ibid*, p.4); and

WHEREAS, “The ELCA recognizes that the threat of dangerous global warming, caused by the buildup of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, poses challenges to the entire world and commits us as individuals, as a worship community, and as a public church to address this serious threat to God’s creation...” (*ELCA Churchwide Assembly Action CA01.07.57, 2001*); and

WHEREAS, recent studies, made by scientists around the world, of the negative environmental impacts indicate that there is a direct correlation between U.S. consumption/waste habits, increasing costs for fuel, global warming, and global staple food shortages (*ELCA Global Warming Fact Sheet, June 6, 2007*); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Lower Susquehanna Synod encourage the members, congregations, and staff of the Lower Susquehanna Synod to commit to lifestyles that contribute to the health of the environment, to tithe environmentally by reducing waste by ten percent, by consuming ten percent less in non-renewable resources, and by contributing those savings to earth care efforts (*ELCA, A Social Statement on: Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice*, p. 8); and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations in this synod and individual members therein make every effort to reduce the consumption of oil-based fuels, especially gasoline, by reducing one’s driving by ten percent and by making use of alternate forms of transit, including public transportation, carpooling, bicycling, and walking; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations and synodical offices of the Lower Susquehanna Synod be encouraged to complete an environmental audit of their church and office facilities prior to the 2010 Synod Assembly, making use of the ELCA Environmental Audit Guide (available on the ELCA webpage); and be it further

RESOLVED, that, in addition, congregations in this synod be strongly encouraged to provide study opportunities utilizing pertinent ELCA social statements (*Care for Creation and Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All*) prior to the 2010 Synod Assembly; and be it further

54 **RESOLVED**, that this synod form an eco-justice task group to provide resources, oversight, and accountability
55 to members, congregations, and synod staff with respect to our collective resolve to improve our stewardship
56 and care of creation.

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58 *Composite resolution by the Committee of Reference and Counsel from resolutions adopted by the North*
59 *Lancaster Conference and the Gettysburg Conference. These resolutions follow as documentation.*

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61 **RECOMMENDATION ON RESOLUTION 2:**

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63 **The Committee of Reference and Counsel presents RESOLUTION 2 to the Synod Assembly without**
64 **recommendation.**

65

66 Marcus Thomsen, chair

67 Thomas McKee, scribe

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69 May 4, 2009

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Adopted