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**Resolution 2010-02**

**REGARDING ENERGY STEWARDSHIP**

WHEREAS we are called to tend to God's creation as part of our loving service to God and to our neighbor, and yet persist in consuming non-renewable fossil fuel resources in a way that is both unsustainable in the future and unfair to those in the developing world; and

WHEREAS human activity, especially the over-consumption of energy and natural resources, appears to be a critical factor in causing environmental distress, thereby exacerbating already difficult situations for millions living with poverty and hunger, as weather extremes such as flood and drought increase; and

WHEREAS the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, recognizing the gravity of these threats, has long been committed to addressing environmental issues as part of our call to justice, sustainability, and solidarity with affected communities; and

WHEREAS the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, along with our partners in the Lutheran World Federation and Lutheran World Relief, is committed to working to alleviate hunger, poverty, and unsustainable living conditions globally; and

WHEREAS the 2009 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly committed itself to a goal of 50% reduction in our carbon footprint over the next **decade; therefore**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Sierra Pacific Synod authorize the establishment of a Sierra Pacific Synod Green Team (under the auspices of the Witness and Service Discipling Team) to encourage the faithful stewardship of energy by this Synod, its congregations, administrative offices, and individual members: and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Sierra Pacific Synod Green Team facilitate its congregations, administrative offices and outdoor ministries offering a public witness of energy stewardship by helping them understand and significantly improve the greenhouse gas emissions (i.e., "carbon footprint") of facilities they operate; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this synod memorialize the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at its 2011 Churchwide Assembly to challenge all expressions of the ELCA to significantly reduce their energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, and to share this commitment and those steps taken to achieve it in a public way in official publications and communication channels of this church.

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**Resolution 2010-03**

**REGARDING BIENNIAL SYNOD ASSEMBLIES**

WHEREAS the Sierra Pacific Synod has been facing increased financial challenges and stresses in recent years; and

WHEREAS the cost of annual synod assemblies adds additional financial stress to congregations already faced with making difficult choices in ministry funding; and

WHEREAS other synods of the ELCA appear able to meet biennially in assembly, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA direct its Synod Council to prepare a feasibility study identifying the underlying costs and benefits of a transition to a biennial (i.e. 'every-other-year') synod-assembly gathering pattern for presentation to the 2011 Synod Assembly; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that such study would include the clear identification of the necessary changes to synod finances, constitution, by-laws and standing rules needed in order to enable the 2011 Synod Assembly to approve such action.

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4 **Resolution 2010-04**

5 **REGARDING ST. FRANCIS LUTHERAN CHURCH AND FIRST UNITED LUTHERAN**  
6 **CHURCH**

7 WHEREAS First United Lutheran Church and St. Francis Lutheran Church were removed  
8 from the roster of ELCA congregations on December 31, 1995, pursuant to the ELCA  
9 process for discipline of congregations and following a five-year suspension; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, prior to the formation of the ELCA, St. Francis Lutheran Church was a member  
12 of The American Lutheran Church and First United Lutheran Church was a member of the  
13 Lutheran Church in America; and

14  
15 WHEREAS the ELCA Churchwide Assembly has affirmed this synod's efforts to "maintain a  
16 strong bond of fellowship" with these two congregations, and the ELCA Church Council has  
17 expressed the hope for "eventual reunion" between them and the ELCA (Churchwide  
18 Assembly action CA95.7.74 and Church Council action CC95.11.105); and

19  
20 WHEREAS, at the direction of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA Church Council  
21 has adopted amendments to the ministry policies of this church that allow First United  
22 Lutheran Church and St. Francis Lutheran Church to apply for recognition and reception into  
23 the ELCA; and

24  
25 WHEREAS "recognition and reception into this church of transferring or independent  
26 congregations by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is based on the judgment of  
27 the synod and action by the synod through the Synod Council and Synod Assembly" (ELCA  
28 churchwide constitutional provision 9.25.); and

29  
30 WHEREAS neither of these congregations is a "member of another church body," and  
31 neither of them is a "congregation newly formed by" or "established by" the ELCA (ELCA  
32 churchwide constitutional provisions 9.25. and 9.62.h.); therefore

33  
34 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly affirm that the mission and  
35 witness of this synod and of the whole ELCA would best be served by making it possible for  
36 First United Lutheran Church or St. Francis Lutheran Church to participate fully in the life of  
37 this synod and the ELCA and resume the status they had prior to their removal; and

38  
39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly direct the Synod  
40 Council and Bishop to take steps necessary to allow First United Lutheran Church or St.  
41 Francis Lutheran Church, should either or both of them desire, to be recognized and  
42 received as ELCA congregations, with their status as former members of predecessor  
43 church bodies unchanged.