

Resolution Submittal Form
Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Date submitted: March 29, 2018

**Resolution for the Arkansas Oklahoma Synod, ELCA, to Memorialize ELCA Churchwide
to Support the National Poor People's Campaign**

WHEREAS, the prophetic ministry begun in 1967 by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others called for a "revolution of values" in the United States of America and invited people who had been divided to stand together against three forms of systemic evil: militarism, racism, and economic injustice; and

WHEREAS, this prophetic ministry was built into a national coalition of poor people, allies, and grassroots and community organizers called the Poor Peoples' Campaign; and

WHEREAS, the current social fabric of the United States of America and her territories is stretched thin by widening economic inequality, criminalization of the poor and racism with fewer public resources available to care for the poor; and

WHEREAS, after more than a decade of work by grassroots, community, and religious leaders, organizations, and movements, the Poor Peoples' Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is being renewed to bring an end to systemic racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction, and related injustices; and

WHEREAS, in mid-May 2018, the Poor Peoples' Campaign launched 40 days of direct action and non-violent civil disobedience in Illinois, at least 24 other states, and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, the Poor Peoples' Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is a broad, deep, national, long-term moral movement rooted in the leadership of poor people and reflecting great moral teachings in order to build a just, sustainable and participatory society; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA's Social Statements: Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective (1991); Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture (1993); Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice (1993); and Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All/Economic Life (1999) all provide theological grounding and support for the goals, methods, and efforts of the Poor Peoples' Campaign; and

WHEREAS, at the time of this Memorial's submission, ELCA Churchwide had begun discussions about denominational endorsement of the Poor Peoples' Campaign; and

WHEREAS, congregations, individuals and affiliated ministries within multiple Synods of the ELCA already have been volunteering with state-based Poor Peoples' Campaign efforts;
THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the ELCA Churchwide Council authorize denominational endorsement of the National Poor Peoples' Campaign (NPPC); AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council's Executive Committee for proper referral and disposition under the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church.

Submitted by:

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