

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

**Date submitted:** March 25, 2018

**Resolution for the Arkansas Oklahoma Synod, ELCA, to Support  
the Arkansas 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 is launching 40 days of direct action and non-violent civil disobedience in Arkansas, 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, various congregations, individuals and affiliated ministries within the Arkansas Oklahoma Synod already have been volunteering with the Arkansas Poor Peoples' Campaign;  
THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, ELCA, provide support to the Arkansas Poor Peoples' Campaign (APPC); AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Arkansas Oklahoma Synod, ELCA, with the support of the current APPC volunteers, use its various communication formats to invite congregations, individuals, affiliate organizations, and ministry partners to join the APPC.

Submitted by:

Clint Schnekloth \_\_\_\_\_  
ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER #1  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fayetteville,  
AR \_\_\_\_\_  
Congregation Name & location  
479-799-3120 / \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone / Phone number during assembly

Amy Buff \_\_\_\_\_  
ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER #2  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fayetteville,  
AR \_\_\_\_\_  
Congregation Name & location  
479-313-9378 / \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone / Phone number during assembly

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Signature (required)

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E-mail address (required)

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Signature (required)

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E-mail address (required)

**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:

Clint Schnekloth\_\_\_\_\_

ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER #1

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fayetteville, AR\_\_\_\_\_

Congregation Name & location

479-799-3120 / \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone / Phone number during assembly

Amy Buff\_\_\_\_\_

ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER #2

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fayetteville, AR\_\_\_\_\_

Congregation Name & location

479-313-9378 / \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone / Phone number during assembly

**Memorial on the ELCA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of women**

Moved,

To transmit the following memorial to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

Whereas in 1970 both the Lutheran Church in America and American Lutheran Church in their national conventions voted to ordain women; and

Whereas the ELCA rejoices in these actions of its predecessor church bodies and will recognize the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020 of the ordination of women; and

Whereas we express our profound gratitude for the many and varied ways the gifts of ordained women have advanced God's mission through this church; and

Whereas we learned in the research related to the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's ordination of some progress but also significant disparities for women in the areas of preparation for ministry, all calls including first calls, mobility, compensation, ministry roles, and debt following seminary education

(<http://search.elca.org/Pages/Results.aspx?k=45th+anniversary+of+women%27s+ordination>); and

Whereas the same research uncovered denigrating and discriminatory experiences of many ordained women, some particularly acute for ordained women of color; and

Whereas the church is called to reflect in church and society its roles of advocate and model for the respect, dignity, and equal rights due all women, including the ordained women of this church; and

Whereas this church is simultaneously addressing justice and women in its social statement under consideration and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of women;

Therefore be it resolved,

We call upon all synods in their 2020 assemblies to include celebration and special recognition of ordained women upon the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of authorizing this ordination practice; and

We call upon our seminaries, colleges, campus ministries, outdoor ministries, social ministry organizations, synods, and congregations to highlight women preachers, teachers and speakers throughout 2020 in recognition of the diversity of gifts women's ordination has brought to our church; and

We call upon congregations throughout the ELCA to participate in the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in our church through worship services, bible studies and other efforts to celebrate and recognize the importance and contributions of ordained women; and

We call upon all members of this church to examine our consciences, and confess our sins and complicity in whichever circumstances by the outright or silent actions women have faced including barriers, discrimination, or sexual harassment as they prepared for and served as ordained women in this church; and

We call upon this church to establish goals and strategies in each synod of achieving for rostered women comparable compensation with that of rostered men in all calls by 2024, and access to ministry roles where women are currently underrepresented, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by women of color receiving viable first and second calls; and

We request all church publications to plan features in 2020 on the ordination of women, lifting up the amazing talents and gifts this church has received from its ordained women, the barriers ordained women still experience in this church, and the steps outlined in this memorial to overcome these barriers; and

We invite the prayers of all members of this church for the successful outcome of these initiatives.

SA18 #4

## **A Resolution of Thanks**

**Whereas**, at the 2018 Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod Assembly God has richly blessed us through the efforts of many individuals and groups, and

**Whereas**, each person who has so graciously given of their time, energy, and ability deserves our appreciation;

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod gathered in Assembly express our thanks to the following for their respective contributions to our Assembly:

To our Bishop, Mike Girlinghouse, for his caring and concern for the people, congregations, and rostered leaders of our Synod; for making Christ known through his leadership of our synod; and for his wife Terrie and her support for our Bishop.

To our Synod Staff, including Laura Bunch, Ida McAllister, Bill McAllister, Liz Albertson and Carl Hoffman, and the members of the Executive Committee and Synod Council.

To Cynthia Nance and Judith Roberts for their keynote presentations and helping us think about Building Bridges in our communities, and we pray for healing for D'Andre Jones, who was not able to be with us because of illness.

To Heather Pratt, Ava Fisher, and Hannah DiPasquale for the Grace Notes and Pastor Rob Martin for the morning devotion. To Pastor Lynne O'Shea, Lisa Milzarek, Pat Garling and LYO for table prayers.

To Horace Pratt, Heather Pratt, Judith Roberts, Sally Houck, Ava Fisher and Jenny Pratt for leading workshops.

To all those who participated in leading worship, especially those who led us through music: Catherine Ratliff and her group, Pastor Liz and Bishop Mike for Friday night worship; and Pastor Alvaro Nova Ochoa, Judith Roberts, Eileen Miller for worship on Sunday morning.

To Comunidad de Esperanza, Via de Cristo, Fellowship Lutheran Youth, and the AR-OK Synod LYO for preparing and serving our meals and to Cindy Perkins, Ida McAllister and Catherine King for providing our break time. To all the wonderful cookie makers and snack providers in the synod.

To Ida McAllister, Katherine Tooley and Vernetta Wilson who helped with registration.

To the Building Bridges Team and Racial Justice Team for helping with the planning and execution of the assembly.

To all the exhibitors, ministry partners, youth participants, voting members and guests.

To the members of the Elections Committee and the Reference and Counsel Committee for their service.

For all these gifts and much more, we offer God our thanks and praise. To God be the Glory!

Source of Resolution: Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod Reference and Counsel Committee  
May 2018