**Resolution 2019-4: World Hunger**

WHEREAS, more than 820 million people in our world live in poverty and face constant “food insecurity,\* 1.2 billion live in extreme poverty, and 40 million people in the United States live in poverty, which means they have an annual income of less than $25,094 in a family of four;\*\* and

WHEREAS, globally, an average of 15,000 children under the age of five years old die each day due to malnutrition; \*\*\* and

WHEREAS, our Lord Jesus Christ teaches that we are to see and serve Him in the lives of those who are the “least of these” (Matthew 25)” until “all are fed,” (an ELCA Hunger Program theme!); and

WHEREAS, God has gifted our Church with a very effective ministry, the ELCA World Hunger Program, which is committed to combat and help reduce hunger and poverty and which serves Christ and his people in fifty-six countries and throughout forty-three of our fifty states, totaling $23 million in program funding in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA World Hunger Program through its Domestic Hunger Program (DHP) has given several grants in recent years to support hunger ministries throughout our synod, including Lutheran Community Services (Wilmington), the Open Kettle (via St. Peter’s, Ocean City), the Interfaith Food Pantry (Cumberland) Manna House (Baltimore, Md), the Rosedale Food Pantry (via Prince of Peace, Rosedale), the Frederick Rescue Mission, the Light House Shelter (Annapolis), and most recently a three year grant for $6,000 per year to fund the feeding ministries at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church (Baltimore); and

WHEREAS, the ELCA World Hunger Program responds to hunger and poverty in the U.S. and globally by providing direct relief addressing root causes through a comprehensive program of education, advocacy, sustainable development, community organizing and networking to help people overcome poverty; and

WHEREAS , great progress has been made by churches other not-for-profits and governments to help reduce hunger and poverty, such that in 1970 (when Lutheran World Hunger Programs began) 1 in 4 persons world-wide were “food insecure ,” and today that number has been reduced to 1 in 8; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware-Maryland Synod has been inspired by God to be a strong contributor to the ELCA World Hunger Program ($300,276 in 2018) and $1.79 million to local and ELCA Hunger needs during our Forward in Faith Campaign; and

WHEREAS, the synod also is greatly committed to local and regional hunger ministries, including the recent emphasis by the Hunger Task Force to provide matching grants for mass meal assemblies and a mini-grant project with several synod churches and agencies participating, combating hunger in Maryland and Delaware; and

WHEREAS, more and more of our synod churches are participating in supporting the ELCA World Hunger Program, and now approximately 50% of our synod congregations did so in 2018;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Delaware-Maryland Synod prayerfully recommit themselves to support Christ’s ministry of mercy and empowerment through the ELCA World Hunger Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our Synod work to increase its congregational support of this ELCA ministry, increasing church participation from 50% to 75% through the Synod Years 2019 and 2020, ending in January, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Christ the King Sunday in 2019 and 2020 be designated as our synod’s ELCA World Hunger Sundays, and that all churches be encouraged to uplift and support this ministry on those days each year (Or select another Sunday).

\* Food and Agriculture Org. of the United Nations, 2018 \*\* *U.S. Census Bureau, 2018*;

\*\*\* WHO - World Health Organization, 2016

Respectively Submitted:

The Rev. Fred Melton Chair- Delaware Maryland Synod Hunger Task Force

Dr .Paul Walker, Hunger Task Force St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Baltimore

Jean Warren, Hunger Task Force Grace Lutheran Church, Hockessin

The Rev. Tormod Svensson, Hunger Task Force Christ Lutheran Church, LaVale

Austin Lee, Hunger Task Force St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Baltimore

LaSonia King, Hunger Task Force Christ Lutheran Church, Baltimore

Clare Archer Light of Christ Lutheran Church, New Market

The Rev. Robert Schmitt St. John & St. Paul Lutheran Churches, Baltimore

The Rev. David Asendorf Salem Lutheran Church, Catonsville

The Rev. Susan Tjornehoj Christ Lutheran Church, Baltimore

The Rev. Kathy Ierien The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Wilmington

The Rev. Kati Kluckman-Ault Rejoice Fellowship, Glen Burnie

The Rev. Patrick Downes St. Philip’s Lutheran Church, Wilmington

The Rev. Kevin Clementson Grace Lutheran Church, Westminster

The Rev. Jason Churchill St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church, Wilmington

The Rev. Matthew Fuhrman Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Rosedale

Reference & Counsel Recommendation: No recommendation.