2016 RESOLUTION TO BECOME A LUTHERANS RESTORING CREATION SYNOD

WHEREAS, the 1993 ELCA Social Statement *Caring for Creation: Vision. Hope. and Justice*affirms that "we are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth"; and recognizes that "action to counter degradation, especially within this decade is essential to the future of our children and our children's children"; and declares that "each congregation should see itself as a center for exploring scriptural and theological foundations for caring for creation"; and that "as congregations and other expressions of this church, we will seek to incorporate the principles of sufficiency and sustainability in our life", and

WHEREAS, the 1999 ELCA Social statement *Economic Life: Sufficient. Sustainable Livelihood for All* recognizes that "the growth of economic activity during the twentieth century, and the industrialization and consumerism that fueled it, radically changed the relationship between humans and the earth. Too often the earth has been treated as a waste receptacle and a limitless storehouse of raw materials to be used up for the sake of economic growth rather than as a finite, fragile ecological system upon which human and all other life depends", and

WHEREAS, the *Statement of Vision and Expectations for Ordained Ministers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* stipulates that "the people of God are called to the care and redemption of all that God has made. This includes the need to speak on behalf of this earth, its environment and natural resources and its inhabitants. This church expects that its ordained ministers will be exemplary stewards of the earth's resources, and that they will lead this church in the stewardship of God's creation", therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod become a Lutherans Restoring Creation synod by entering into partnership with Lutherans Restoring Creation (LRC) as described in the LRC document "Partnership with Synods",1 and by adopting a "Green Synod Mission Statement"2 similar in form and function to the LRC model; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod's Green Faith Team be responsible for implementing all feasible actions as listed in the "Partnership" and "Mission Statement" documents; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Southwest California Synod consider becoming Lutherans Restoring Creation congregations, educating congregants of all ages about our sacred calling to care for God's beloved creation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod's Green Faith Team reach out to the congregations of our Synod, encouraging earth-caring and sustainability actions, and report back on efforts made in our congregations and synod to the 2017 Synod Assembly.

1 - Copy found at: http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org/Home/synods/partnership-with-synods

2 - Copy found at: http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org/green-synod-mission-statement

LRC Vision: That being earth-keepers is foundational to our Christian vocation and should be integral to the full life and mission of the ELCA.

LRC Mission: To empower and equip ELCA congregations, synods, agencies, etc. to embrace caring for creation in substantive and meaningful ways. The goal is to encourage the ELCA to incorporate care for creation into its full life and mission at all levels and into members' lifestyles, so that earth-keeping and justice for all earth community becomes integral to the identity and purpose of our church.