

Resolution in Support of Efforts to Hold the Fossil Fuel Industry Accountable

WHEREAS, The social statement Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice [August 1993] calls for members to care for and advocate on behalf of creation; and

WHEREAS, The fossil fuel industry sought to sow doubt about climate science after its own research had accurately predicted devastating damages to the environment since the 1980's; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that climate-liability lawsuits must be heard in State Courts; and

WHEREAS, Opening a lawsuit to hold polluters liable would unlock funding that cities, counties, and our state can use to recover from the loss and damage caused by this crisis; and

WHEREAS, Poorer communities have been more greatly impacted by climate change through poorer health, flooding, road damage, extreme heat, rain, drought, and water pollution; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin for Environmental Justice is dedicated to seeking redress for the destructive impacts of global warming through education and a relationship with the fossil fuel industry via a lawsuit, working together to solve and heal environmental damage using their funds, according to their mission statement; and

WHEREAS, The Common Council of the City of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee County Board have passed resolutions urging the Wisconsin State Attorney General to initiate action against the fossil fuel industry; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA direct the bishop to sign on behalf of the Assembly, the petition from Wisconsin for Environmental Justice urging jurisdictions to use litigation to hold the fossil fuel industry accountable for the negative impacts on Wisconsin and its residents caused by their business practices.