

RESOLUTION #1 – 11X15 CAMPAIGN

(Submitted by Hephatha Lutheran Church
to the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA)

SUBJECT: Support 11X15 Campaign for Safer and Healthier Communities

WHEREAS God's prophetic call to all God's people through the prophet Micah is "To do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God, and

WHEREAS the redemptive, healing ministry of Jesus teaches us to do justice in ways that focus on restoration and not solely on retribution, and

WHEREAS the United States has the highest rate of incarceration of any country in the world, and

WHEREAS Wisconsin incarcerates at twice the rate of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS Wisconsin incarcerates African Americans at more than twice the rate of Minnesota and Illinois, and

WHEREAS WISDOM, a network of congregation-based justice organizations in Wisconsin, with many ELCA congregations as members, has initiated the 11X15 Campaign designed to reduce the prison population by 11,000 by 2015 through the use of evidence-based initiatives such as Treatment Alternatives and Diversionary programs (TAD), earned release programs, Circles of Support, drug treatment programs, day report centers and other restorative justice programs, and

WHEREAS the 11X15 Campaign has offered a power point presentation to congregations, classes and organizations that want to learn about incarceration realities in Wisconsin and about the statewide efforts to reduce prison populations in ways that emphasize restorative justice and result in safer and healthier communities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA supports the 11X15 Campaign for Safer and Healthier Communities, and

RESOLVED that all congregations of the Greater Milwaukee Synod be encouraged to show the 11X15 Campaign power point presentation as part of their educational program, and

RESOLVED that congregational members be encouraged to participate in the various opportunities for involvement in the 11X15 Campaign.