

Resolution 3 – 2019 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly Memorial on Increasing Participation and Awareness in Social Purpose Funds for All Portico Members

WHEREAS, that currently new Portico Benefit Services members are automatically enrolled in the ELCA 60e Balanced Fund; and

WHEREAS, according to an email sent by Portico to plan members on February 2, 2017 “about 45% of plan members have all of their ELCA Retirement Plan savings invested in the plans default fund, the ELCA 60 e Balanced Fund,”; and

WHEREAS, that some plan members who were automatically enrolled in the ELCA 60 e Balanced Fund have no preference for what plan they are enrolled in or do not know how to make an enrollment selection; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA 60e Balanced Fund is partially invested in alcohol, business practices that negatively impact community development, fossil fuels and business practices that degrade the environment, gambling, military weapons, pornography, and tobacco, and private prisons (including the companies that operate the private prisons that held immigrant children separated from their parents); and

WHEREAS, the ELCA already has created alternative funds, the eight ELCA Social Purpose Funds, screens (does not invest in) investments in alcohol, business practices that negatively impact community development, fossil fuels and business practices that degrade the environment, gambling, military weapons, pornography, and tobacco, and private prisons; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Social Purpose Funds positively invests in activities that promote: community development, affordable housing, sustainable forestry, women- and minority-owned businesses, and clean energy and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Social Purpose Funds are in alignment with our biblical tradition that encourages us to seek the welfare of our communities. (See Jeremiah 29:4-7); and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Social Purpose Funds are in alignment with our biblical tradition that teaches us to love our neighbor. (See Luke 10:25-37); therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to launch an ongoing campaign to raise awareness of and participation in Portico Benefit Services Social Purpose Funds, beginning January 1, 2020 or as soon thereafter as possible, and to publish results of this campaign on the church’s website.

Submitted by Grace Lutheran Church, Kenosha) and the Kenosha/West Racine Cluster.