

The Greater Milwaukee Synod approved six resolutions at its 2016 Synod Assembly. The six resolutions are summarized as follows:

1. Resolved, that the Greater Milwaukee Synod is opposed to the requirement for identification or documentation for access to The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) within the State of Wisconsin.
2. Resolved, that the congregations of this synod are encouraged to observe an annual Lutheran Social Services Sunday.
3. Resolved, that the Greater Milwaukee Synod memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly and in part to request that the ELCA affirm unequivocally that BLACK LIVES MATTER.
4. RESOLVED, that the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly request that the Domestic Mission Unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America develop guidelines that will screen out investments in companies profiting from, or complicit in, human rights violations arising from the occupation of Palestine, and that the Greater Milwaukee Synod divest of such direct or material indirect investments in such companies.
5. Resolved, that we, as members of this annual assembly of the Greater Milwaukee Synod, offer our appreciation and gratitude in honor of the six years of leadership and service by Jeff Barrow as Synod Bishop.
6. Resolved, the Greater Milwaukee Synod in Assembly affirm the AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) strategy recently presented to the ELCA Church Council and memorialize the Churchwide Assembly to adopt it.

The following is the status of these six resolutions and their various Be it Resolved clauses.

Action Completed

- **The Synod Assembly offered its appreciation and gratitude** in honor of the six years of leadership and service by Jeff Barrow as Synod Bishop; offered thanksgiving to God for Bishop Barrow's vision, service, and faithful discipleship; and bestowed upon Bishop Barrow and all with whom he continues to share life and ministry, the boundless blessings of Almighty God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and give thanks for the ongoing service Bishop Barrow will bring to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church and to the Lord of that church in whom we have life and salvation, now and forever. (*Resolution 5*)

Action Needed (*action and oversight needed by Synod Council*)

- **Requirement that the Synod Council divest** of direct or substantive indirect holdings in companies profiting from, or complicit in, human rights violations arising from the occupation, including Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions and G4S, until such time as those companies no longer profit from the occupation or cease operations in the illegal settlements. (*Resolution 4*)
 - **Status** – *Resolution action studied by Synod Council, and a separate report has been issued. No direct investment in companies listed by GMS or affiliates. The Synod and affiliates invest in the ELCA Endowment Fund and the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA. These funds hold indirect investments of less than 0.5% in the companies listed in the resolution, which is considered non-substantive. ELCA is working on a social investment screen related to investment in companies who profit from or complicit in discrimination against Palestinians in the Holy Land.*

- **Affirm the ministry that is being done in this synod with children and families from Central America**; consider ways that it can accompany, foster awareness building and advocate for the children and families in Central America in their country, in the countries in transit and in the United States of America; and use the AMMPARO strategy as a guide for accompanying children and families from Central America through the Welcoming Congregations and/or Guardian Angel programs, and for advocating policies that are more just and humane and that uphold and defend the human rights of migrant children and their families. (*Resolution 6*)
 - **Status** – The Synod Council and Synod Office will continue to show its advocacy for the AMMPARO strategy adopted at the Churchwide Assembly.

Calls for Prayer, Thanksgiving, Study and Advocacy (*dissemination of information by Synod*)

- **Call for congregations and individuals** to oppose new identification requirements imposed by the State of Wisconsin on recipients of food from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and to contact their elected representatives to urge action to reverse these requirements. (*Resolution 1*)
 - **Status** – The Synod Council and the Synod Offices will work on better informing the congregations of the Greater Milwaukee Synod on the identification requirements imposed on participants and how congregations can advocate for changes in these requirements.

- **Call for congregations to observe an annual Lutheran Social Services Sunday** where this ministry of the church is remembered in prayer, information on the breadth and scope of services shared, and an opportunity for financial support made available. *(Resolution 2)*
 - **Status** – *Lutheran Social Services Sunday occurred on March 5, 2017 and was noted on the GMS website and on the Lutheran Social Services website.*
- **Call for congregations to provide opportunities for their members to engage in interfaith dialog with Palestinians** — Muslim and Christian — and with American Jews and Israelis, to gain an understanding of the complex issues that plague the people of Palestine and Israel; to divest of direct or substantive indirect holdings in companies profiting from, or complicit in, human rights violations arising from the occupation, including Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions and G4S, until such time as those companies no longer profit from the occupation or cease operations in the illegal settlements; and to pray and work for a just peace in Palestine and Israel. *(Resolution 4)*
 - **Status** – The Synod Council and the Synod Offices will work to inform congregations on how to engage in interfaith dialog with Palestinians.

Memorials to 2016 Churchwide Assembly *(no further action required)*

- **Request that the ELCA affirm that Black Lives Matter** while supporting the ten-point policy solutions of Campaign Zero and encouraging all ELCA congregations “to engage the 10-point policy solutions in education, lobbying, and direct action.” *(Resolution 3)*

Status - The memorial was received by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly and was forwarded to the Church Council of the ELCA. A report was issued by the ELCA Church Council in November 2016, the following is a summary from that report. The resolution was submitted to the Domestic Mission unit through the African Descent Ministries Desk, in partnership with the African Descent Lutheran Association. The Domestic Mission Unit indicated that over the next six months, the African Descent Ministries, program director for racial justice, director for advocacy, program director for domestic policy and the African Descent Lutheran Association will consider the opportunities for engagement, education and encouragement of advocacy in alignment with the 10-point policy solutions outlined in Campaign Zero. A full report from this group was prepared for the April 2017 Church Council meeting. The following was the action taken by the Church Council:

“To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit on “Examining the Opportunities and Implications of Campaign Zero, a policy platform in affirmation of Black Lives Matter;” and

To acknowledge the Campaign Zero policy platform is in alignment with this church’s criminal justice social statement, but to recognize the insufficient resources for the churchwide organization to provide an educational or organizing campaign in support of Campaign Zero.”

- **Request that the ELCA adopt the AMMPARO** (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) strategy. (*Resolution 6*)
 - *Status – The following information was provided to the ELCA Church Council in November 2016.*
 - The adoption of the AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) strategy at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly increases the capacity of AMMPARO staff to connect with ELCA synods to create greater awareness of the needs of unaccompanied children and how congregations can strengthen their ministries with them. Staff has been in contact with the New Jersey Synod and will have further conversation in order to develop a plan to work with congregations on accompaniment, advocacy and awareness-building. New materials will be created in the first quarter of 2017 for congregations and synods, in addition to the materials that are already available. For more information about unaccompanied children from Central America, please visit the AMMPARO page (www.ELCA.org/ammparo).
 - As part of this capacity-building effort, ELCA Advocacy (www.ELCA.org/advocacy) and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) (www.LIRS.org) will continue to connect congregations to advocate for immigration, refugee resettlement and asylum laws that are fair and generous. Faith leaders can go to LIRS’s Action Center and ELCA Advocacy’s web pages and take action to advocate for laws and policies that protect children, their families and others fleeing persecution.

Resolution Directed to the ELCA Domestic Mission Unit *(no further action required)*

- **Request that the Domestic Mission unit of the ELCA** direct the Corporate Social Responsibility team to develop guidelines that will screen out investments in companies profiting from, or complicit in, human rights violations arising from the occupation, including Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions and G4S, and to provide a report with possible recommendations to the November 2016 meeting of the Church Council, and to forward the guidelines to the separately incorporated ministries and agencies, including the ELCA Board of Pension and other institutions of this church, for implementation of divestment as appropriate. *(Resolution 4)*
 - **Status** – *Resolution action studied by Synod Council, and a separate report has been issued. ELCA is working on a social investment screen related to investment in companies who profit from or complicit in discrimination against Palestinians in the Holy Land. Final investment screen to be available to ELCA Churchwide Council in November 2018.*