

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE ELEVENTH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION (2021)

The following matters were presented to the Eleventh Triennial Convention (2021) either as memorials from synodical women's organizations or as resolutions presented by voting members from the floor of the convention. They are summarized here.

Topics involved are:

- Human Trafficking
- Continued support for solar energy projects in Liberia
- Thursdays in Black
- Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women
- Reusable bags
- Assistance with Diapers and Female Hygiene Products
- Immigration Reform
- School Violence and Mass Shootings
- #METOO
- First time voting members
- Elected synodical leaders

These are the matters that the triennial convention has directed the organization to address. Each matter calls on one or more expressions of Women of the ELCA to engage in action. For those that are directed to synodical organizations, I will remind the presidents of their call to action. For those that are directed to individual participants and congregational units, I propose a series of blog posts, supported by social media and mentioned in *Bold Connections*, that call them to action. Where appropriate, colleagues in the ELCA or partner organizations will be invited to assist in drafting blog posts. For those that request material be added to welca.org, staff will work to accomplish that.

Two matters arising in the Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel are directly forwarded to the churchwide executive board for consideration. These are the final items found on page four of this exhibit.

Human Trafficking

Three memorials were received on the topic of human trafficking; their concerns were summarized in a substitute motion presented by the Memorials Committee which was adopted by the convention.

BE IT RESOLVED that all Synodical Women's Organizations continue to inform, educate and/or work to end Human Trafficking and/or assist victims of Human Trafficking in some manner appropriate for their synod; including actions such as learning about which laws their states have in place to help end human trafficking, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the four weeks prior to the annual Super Bowl be established as a time of prayer to end human trafficking in the congregational units and synods of the ELCA, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations be encouraged to educate their members about human trafficking, using resources from Women of the ELCA and other organizations.

Continued support for solar energy projects in Liberia

A memorial on this topic was received; a substitute motion presented by the Memorials Committee was adopted by the convention.

BE IT RESOLVED that Women of the ELCA's 2020 Triennial Convention be encouraged to continue to support Current for Curran through education about the project and how they can help support it financially, including prayers for all involved in this work.

Thursdays in Black

A memorial on this topic was received, with the committee recommending its adoption. The convention adopted it.

BE IT RESOLVED that the triennial convention support and participate in the Thursdays in Black campaign (of the World Council of Churches) through actions, awareness, and sharing of information from the World Council of Churches on the Women of the ELCA website.

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women

A memorial on this topic was received, with the committee recommending its adoption. The convention adopted it.

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2020 triennial convention commemorate this anniversary and lift up the gifts and contributions of ordained women in the ELCA through prayer, promotion of *We Are Church, We Are Called: 50 40 10*, and by sharing the history and contribution of the predecessor women's organizations in the effort to achieve the ordination of women.

Reusable bags

A memorial on this topic was received, with the committee recommending its adoption. The convention adopted it.

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2020 triennial convention adopt and encourage the practice of using reusable bags.

Assistance with Diapers and Female Hygiene Products

A memorial on this topic was received, with the committee recommending its adoption. The convention adopted it.

BE IT RESOLVED that synodical organizations strongly encourage congregational units and conferences/clusters provide educational materials on the needs of women and children living in poverty;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that participants and congregational units are encouraged to reach out to local, state and federal government officials and legislators to create and support legislation that will

allow the inclusion of diapers and feminine hygiene products in low-income programs such as Good stamps (SNAP) and WIC;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that participants and congregational units are encouraged to assist women and children in poverty by arranging opportunities to donate diapers and female hygiene products to local food banks and women's shelters.

Immigration Reform

A memorial on this topic was received, with the committee recommending its adoption with a slight modification. The convention adopted it.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Women of the ELCA be encouraged to contact their legislators, and others in authority, to voice their concerns and positions regarding immigration laws and allowing minors to enter this country without the fear of being separated from their parents; and

BE it FURTHER RESOLVED that the Women of the ELCA be encouraged to advocate for changes to such immigration laws in order to ensure the safety of minors who are being held in facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as we continue to service and love our neighbor, we pray for the well-being of children and families in detention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Women of the ELCA be encouraged to contact their legislators, and the presidential administration to advocate for reunification of children who have been separated from their families and to seek alternatives to the detention of children.

School Violence and Mass Shootings

A memorial on this topic was received, with the committee recommending its adoption as amended. The convention adopted it.

BE IT RESOLVED that Women of the ELCA be encouraged to contact their legislators to voice their concerns and positions regarding school and workplace safety, gun control, and mental health in light of the mass shootings in this country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Women of the ELCA, through all its expressions, engage in education using the following resources: ELCA 1994 social message on community violence, the ELCA 60 Day Journey Toward Justice in a culture of gun violence and WELCA's Rachel Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Women of the ELCA through all its expressions engage in conversation and discernment regarding school and workplace safety, gun control, and mental health issues.

#METOO

A memorial on this topic was received, with the committee recommending its adoption as amended. The convention adopted it.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Women of the ELCA, through all its expressions, be encouraged to support a safe environment for women and girls by reviewing the ELCA Social Statement: Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action and other resources focused on this issue in order to conduct discussions with the women, and especially the youth, of their congregations and/or communities regarding situations that may be encountered and providing voice and support to women before they are victimized; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Women of the ELCA use resources available provided by the ELCA and CWO as well as other organizations focused on this issue to counteract such unjust treatment of women and girls, to provide education and prayers for those who have been victimized, and to give voice and support to those who willingly acknowledge such treatment by saying #METOO.

From the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Two matters referred to the churchwide executive board for further study and possible action

1. The first matter asks that first-time voting members at this convention be allowed to serve as first-time voting members at the Twelfth Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA.

This is a constitutional question and therefore must be referred to the churchwide executive board. The committee asked that synodical organizations be encouraged to study the churchwide and synodical constitutions in light of the amendments made at the convention, as well as any further instructions that the board may issue before the next convention comes to pass.

2. The second matter is the dilemma of a synodical organization whose board members have all served for seven years and are no longer eligible for re-election according to their constitution and bylaws.

The committee asked that synodical women's organizations be encouraged to study their own synodical constitutions in light of the amendments made at the convention, which offer new flexibility in many ways; and that they be reminded that there are procedures in place for requesting changes to synodical constitutions, if necessary.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Post Bushkofsky
Executive director