

Resolution 2022-2

For the Saint Paul Area Synod to Support the Minnesota Poor People’s Campaign and the National Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

1 WHEREAS, the prophetic ministry begun in 1967 by Marian Wright Edelman, the Rev. Dr. Martin
2 Luther King, Jr. and others called for a “revolution of values” in the United States of America and
3 invited people who had been divided to stand together against three forms of systemic evil:
4 militarism, racism, and economic injustice; and
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6 WHEREAS, this prophetic ministry was built into a national coalition of poor people, allies, and
7 grassroots and community organizers called the Poor People’s Campaign; and
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9 WHEREAS, the current social fabric of the United States of America and its territories are
10 stretched thin by widening economic inequality, criminalization of the poor, racism and
11 xenophobia dividing the poor, budget increases for a well-funded military and ecological
12 degradation adversely affecting the poor, and the largest tax breaks for our wealthiest neighbors
13 leaving fewer public resources available to care for the poor; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is being renewed to
16 confront systemic racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction, the distorted moral
17 narrative of religious nationalism, and related injustices; and
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19 WHEREAS, in mid-May 2018, the Poor People’s Campaign launched 40 days of direct action and
20 civil disobedience in Minnesota (<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/committee/minnesota>)
21 at least 24 other states, and the District of Columbia, sponsored numerous non-violent actions
22 and rallies across the country since 2018, is calling for a mass poor people’s and low wage
23 worker’s assembly in Washington, D.C. on June 18th, 2022; and
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25 WHEREAS, the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival
26 (poorpeoplescampaign.org) is a broad, deep, national, long-term moral movement rooted in the
27 leadership of poor people and reflecting great moral teachings in order to build a just,
28 sustainable and participatory society; and
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30 WHEREAS, the ELCA’s Social Statements: Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective (1991); Freed
31 in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture (1993); Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice (1993);
32 and Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All/Economic Life (1999) all provide theological
33 grounding and support for the goals, methods, and efforts of the Poor People’s Campaign; and
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35 WHEREAS, the Oregon Synod (memorial), Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (resolution), Metropolitan
36 Chicago Synod (resolution & memorial), New England Synod (memorial), and Metropolitan New
37 York Synod (memorial) voted to support the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral
38 Revival; and
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40 WHEREAS, at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly the following action was taken on the synod
41 memorials: To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Oregon, New England and
42 Metropolitan New York synods concerning the National Poor People’s Campaign; and To affirm
43 the Church Council action [CC18.11.23u] recognizing “the importance of the Poor People’s
44 Campaign in bringing an end to systemic racism, economic injustice, ecological devastation and
45 related injustices; to support the vision and goals of the Poor People’s Campaign that are in
46 alignment with this church’s social teachings; to encourage the churchwide organization, synods,
47 congregations and members to become involved with the issues as a faithful witness to God’s
48 call to do justice and show love for the neighbor;” and
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50 WHEREAS, the Deaconess Community of the ELCA endorsed the Poor People’s Campaign in
51 2019, encouraging all ELCA synods to endorse the campaign, facilitate communication to
52 congregations within the synods regarding the state campaign, and provide grant processes for
53 state and national campaign events; and
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55 WHEREAS, various congregations, individuals and affiliated ministries within Minnesota have
56 volunteered with the Minnesota Poor People’s Campaign since 2018; THEREFORE, BE IT
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58 RESOLVED, that the St. Paul Area Synod, in assembly, encourages all congregations over the
59 course of the next year to become involved with the issues of the Minnesota Poor People’s
60 Campaign (MNPPC) and the National Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival,
61 and if so moved, join the MNPPC; AND BE IT FURTHER
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63 RESOLVED, that the St. Paul Area Synod share with congregations information on the MNPPC
64 and the National Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival.

Submitted by: Pastor Daniel Ruen, Saint Anthony Park Lutheran Church

Because this resolution is consistent with the governing documents of the ELCA and addresses an issue of general concern to the Saint Paul Area Synod, the Reference and Counsel Committee recommends adoption of this resolution.