LONG-RANGE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, increasing global temperatures are causing major droughts, unprecedented wildfires, major storms, species extinctions, and massive flooding; and

WHEREAS, it is the world’s poor, who contribute the least to this problem, who will suffer the most from global warming; and

WHEREAS, we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves and to be good stewards of God’s creation; and

WHEREAS, according to the world’s leading scientists, to avoid these consequences we must stop the growth of global-warming emissions as quickly as possible and reduce global-warming pollution to 1990 levels by 2020 and to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, Illinois is the sixth-largest source of global-warming pollution in the nation; and

WHEREAS, many churches in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod already have modeled good energy stewardship thanks to the support of the Synod’s Environmental Concerns Working Group and organizations such as the Web of Creation and Faith in Place; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of a federal response, municipalities and religious bodies around the country are creating Climate Action Plans; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council, through the Environmental Concerns Working Group, establish and staff a task force to develop a long-range Climate Action Plan that recommends goals and strategies for measurable improvements in sustainability and environmental stewardship in all of its churches and missions and synod properties and to report back that plan at the 2009 Synod Assembly.

Submitted by:

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