

Resolution of Synod Goal for World Hunger

WHEREAS synod congregations have shown a commitment to relief and development support through the World Hunger Appeal, including outstanding participation in the 2016 Synod Cow Project; and

WHEREAS the La Crosse Area synod congregations and individuals contributed **\$208,231.97** to the World Hunger Appeal in 2016 and set a goal of **\$185,000 (\$5.00/ baptized member)** for 2017; and

WHEREAS the ongoing work of the World Hunger Appeal together with the efforts of other agencies is truly reducing the percentage of people living in poverty and hunger in the world; and

WHEREAS the development and relief efforts (including those funded through the World Hunger Appeal) have cut in half the percentage of food-insecure people among the world's population, yet 1 in 9 people remain food insecure and much remains to be done in relief, education, advocacy, and development to reduce this number; and

WHEREAS our congregations and their members participate in an economy of abundance as both a gift of grace and resource for doing good; and

WHEREAS the work supported by the World Hunger Appeal continues year after year and our ability to support that work from year to year varies; and

WHEREAS the Malaria and the Walk for Water Projects have shown the value of a multi-year focus in the synod; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the La Crosse Area Synod in assembly establish a three-year goal of \$600,000 for the synod's portion of the World Hunger Appeal to be achieved through giving in 2018, 2019, and 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED that the World Hunger Subcommittee be directed to provide resources and support to synod congregations for annual World Hunger Sundays and other education and giving opportunities; and be it further

RESOLVED that the World Hunger Subcommittee provide monthly reports through the Synod Update and an annual report to the synod assembly as the synod stretches to this goal.

Submitted by the La Crosse Area Synod World Hunger Subcommittee.

Global Hunger and Food Insecurity

- Based on the latest estimates, about 795 million people remain undernourished globally, down 167 million over the last decade, and 216 million lower than in 1990–92. This means that just over one in every nine people in the world are currently unable to consume enough food to conduct an active and healthy life.
- About 780 million people, or the vast majority of the hungry, live in the developing regions. In these regions, the prevalence of undernourishment has dropped by 44.4 percent since 1990–92, and the overall share now stands at 12.9 percent of the total population.

Hunger in the U. S.

- 1 in 6 people in America face hunger.
- The USDA defines "food insecurity" as the lack of access, at times, to enough food for all household members. In 2011, households with children reported a significantly higher food insecurity rate than households without children: 20.6% vs. 12.2%.
- Food insecurity exists in every county in America. In 2013, 17.5 million homes households were food insecure. More and more people are relying on food banks and pantries.
- 49 million Americans struggle to put food on the table. In the U.S., hunger isn't caused by a lack of food, but rather the continued prevalence of poverty
- More than 1 in 5 children is at risk of hunger. Among African-Americans and Latinos, it's 1 in 3.
- Over 20 million children receive free or reduced-price lunch each school day. Less than half of them get breakfast, and only 10% have access to summer meal sites.
- For every 100 school lunch programs, there are only 87 breakfast sites and just 36 summer food programs.
- 1 in 7 people are enrolled in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Nearly half of them are children.
- 40% of food is thrown out in the U.S. every year, or about \$165 billion worth. All of this uneaten food could feed 25 million Americans.
- These 8 states have statistically higher food insecurity rates than the U.S. national average (14.6%): Arkansas (21.2%), Mississippi (21.1%), Texas (18.0%), Tennessee (17.4%), North Carolina (17.3%), Missouri (16.9%), Georgia (16.6%), Ohio (16.0%).

Sources

US Department of Agriculture

International Food Policy Research Service

National Resources Defense Council

USDA Economic Research Service