

1 **NWMN Synod of the ELCA**  
2 **Continuing Resolution for the Establishment of a Care for Creation Committee**

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4 WHEREAS the congregations of the Northwestern Minnesota (NWMN) Synod, meeting in assembly in  
5 2023, voted to accept their responsibility to be stewards of the earth, and pledged to grow faithfully  
6 and intentionally in this responsibility as individuals and as anticipatory communities within the synod  
7 by:

- 8 · Worshiping in ways that celebrate and foster care for creation,
- 9 · Educating adults and children about biblical and theological foundations for creation care,  
10 about ecological issues and community practices,
- 11 · Improving energy conservation efforts in church buildings and on their grounds,
- 12 · Promoting earth-friendly practices of members at home and work,
- 13 · Demonstrating care for creation in their local communities, and
- 14 · Advocating for energy policies at local, state and national levels that will foster cleaner,  
14 renewable, and more efficient energy use in all sectors of society; and

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16 WHEREAS the NWMN Synod Creation Care Task Force (appointed by the Synod Council pursuant to the  
17 approved 2023 Resolution on Care for Creation), has provided leadership and oversight of this pledge  
18 by working with Lutheran Advocacy-Minnesota, the EcoFaith Network of the Upper Midwest, the  
19 Center for Climate Justice and Faith, along with other partnering organizations in fulfillment of its  
20 mandate; and

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22 WHEREAS congregations of the NWMN Synod have been living out these ecological commitments to  
23 creation care in a variety of inspiring ways through forming congregational creation care teams,  
hosting 24 community events, promoting energy conservation, and increasing awareness of earthkeeping  
25 practices; and

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27 WHEREAS the NWMN Synod Creation Care Task Force has seen fit to develop a mission statement and  
28 set of by-laws to sustain a long term synodical commitment to this work as a newly organized Care for  
29 Creation Committee; therefore, be it

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31 RESOLVED that the NWMN Synod, meeting in assembly, establish by continuing resolution [S11.13.01]

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32 Care for Creation Committee to work with members, congregations, ministries, companion synods,  
33 affiliated organizations, and other creation-justice partners of this synod in support of the mission of  
34 the Church in its calling to care for creation; and be it further

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36 RESOLVED that the NWMN Synod, meeting in assembly, recognize care for creation as integral to the  
37 values we share (i.e., “FAITHFUL in relationships. AUTHENTIC in our welcome. LOVE that makes a  
38 difference.”), to our synod’s strategic plan, and to our synodical mission (to “nurture safe and healthy  
39 spaces for the ministry of the Gospel to unfold and shape an abundant future for all in northwestern  
40 Minnesota.”); and be it finally

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42 RESOLVED that the NWMN Synod, meeting in assembly, renew its commitment to earth stewardship  
by 43 encouraging congregations to engage this calling to creation care boldly and creatively in their local  
44 communities, trusting and participating in God’s creative, redemptive, and sustaining love for the  
45 world.

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[S11.13.01] The Care for Creation Committee shall work with members, congregations, ministries, companion synods, affiliated organizations, and other creation-justice partners of this synod in support of the mission of the Church in its calling to care for creation.

1. Membership Composition

- a. The Care for Creation Committee shall consist of members from as broad a representation of conferences as possible.
- b. The number of members from each conference will be determined by the Committee in consultation with the synod's leadership, but each conference shall endeavor to provide at least one representative.
- c. The committee shall not exceed 12 members. One member should be a member of the Synod Council and act as a liaison as such.

2. Qualifications

- a. Members of the Committee shall be active members of an ELCA congregation within the Northwestern Minnesota Synod.
- b. Members should have a demonstrated commitment to creation care, sustainability, or environmental stewardship.

3. Term Lengths and Elections

- a. President and Vice President shall be elected for a term of one year by majority vote of the Committee. The VP shall move into the President role following the President's term.
- b. Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for a term of one year by majority vote of the Committee.
- c. All other members shall serve for a term of three years. Terms should be staggered to ensure continuity.
- d. Elections shall occur at the first meeting of the year, or as necessary to fill vacancies.
- e. A member may serve multiple consecutive terms but may not hold the office of President or Vice President for more than two consecutive terms.

4. Vacancies

- a. Should a vacancy occur in the office of the President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer, a special election shall be held at the next meeting to fill the unexpired term.
- b. If a regular member's term is vacated before it concludes, the Committee shall appoint a new member to complete the term, endeavoring (to the greatest extent possible) that each conference remains represented.
- c. Members vacating their positions prior to their three year commitment are encouraged to consult with their conference to find a replacement.

5. Leadership

- a. President
  - i. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Care for Creation Committee and shall be the primary representative to the Synod Council and other synodical bodies.
  - ii. The President shall set the agenda for Committee meetings in consultation with the Vice President and other members.
  - iii. The President shall ensure that the Committee fulfills its duties and responsibilities as outlined in these by-laws.
  - iv. The President shall provide a written summary of activity to the annual Synod

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Assembly.

b. Vice President

- i. The Vice President shall assist the President in all duties and assume the duties of the President in their absence.
- ii. The Vice President shall coordinate subcommittees or work groups formed to address specific areas of creation care, as determined by the Committee.

c. Secretary

- i. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping accurate records of all meetings and activities of the Care for Creation Committee and making sure all records are shared with the committee in a timely manner.
- ii. The Secretary shall distribute minutes of meetings to all members in a timely manner.
- iii. The Secretary shall maintain a roster of Committee members and keep contact information up to date.
- iv. The Secretary shall be responsible for any correspondence sent on behalf of the Committee.

d. Treasurer

- i. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial oversight of the Care for Creation Committee.
- ii. The Treasurer shall keep accurate records of all income, expenditures, and financial transactions related to Committee activities.
- iii. The Treasurer shall provide a financial report to the Committee at each meeting, including an annual financial statement.
- iv. The Treasurer shall work with the Synod to ensure that funds are managed appropriately and in accordance with synod policies.