

1 **MEMORIAL FROM THE METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD TO THE ELCA**  
2 **CHURCHWIDE TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN**  
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4 WHEREAS, the prophetic ministry begun in 1967 by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and  
5 others called for a "revolution of values" in the United States of America and invited people who  
6 had been divided to stand together against three forms of systemic evil: militarism, racism, and  
7 economic injustice; and  
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9 WHEREAS, this prophetic ministry was built into a national coalition of poor people, allies, and  
10 grassroots and community organizers called the Poor Peoples' Campaign; and  
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12 WHEREAS, the current social fabric of the United States of America and her territories is  
13 stretched thin by widening economic inequality, criminalization of the poor, racism and  
14 xenophobia dividing the poor, budget increases for a well-funded military and ecological  
15 degradation adversely affecting the poor, and the largest tax breaks for our wealthiest neighbors  
16 leaving fewer public resources available to care for the poor; and  
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18 WHEREAS, after more than a decade of work by grassroots, community, and religious leaders,  
19 organizations, and movements, the Poor Peoples' Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival  
20 is being renewed to bring an end to systemic racism, poverty, militarism, environmental  
21 destruction, and related injustices; and  
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23 WHEREAS, in mid-May 2018, the Poor Peoples' Campaign launched 40 days of direct action  
24 and civil disobedience in Illinois, at least 24 other states, and the District of Columbia; and  
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26 WHEREAS, the Poor Peoples' Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is a broad, deep,  
27 national, long-term moral movement rooted in the leadership of poor people and reflecting great  
28 moral teachings in order to build a just, sustainable and participatory society; and  
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30 WHEREAS, the ELCA's Social Statements: Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective (1991);  
31 Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture (1993); Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and  
32 Justice (1993); and Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All/Economic Life (1999) all provide  
33 theological grounding and support for the goals, methods, and efforts of the Poor Peoples'  
34 Campaign; and  
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36 WHEREAS, at the time of this Memorial's submission, other synods are considering similar  
37 resolutions and urging Churchwide divisions to participate in and endorse the Poor Peoples'  
38 Campaign; and  
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40 WHEREAS, congregations, individuals and affiliated ministries within multiple Synods of the  
41 ELCA already have been volunteering with state-based Poor Peoples' Campaign efforts;  
42 THEREFORE, BE IT  
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44 RESOLVED, that the ELCA Churchwide Council authorize denominational endorsement of the  
45 National Poor Peoples' Campaign (NPPC); AND BE IT FURTHER  
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47 RESOLVED, that the Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the  
48 Church Council's Executive Committee for proper referral and disposition under the bylaws and  
49 continuing resolutions of this church.  
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51 Submitted by:

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