Resolution #2 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly

WHEREAS, we followers of Christ are called by God in our baptismal covenant to work for justice and peace on the earth; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Advocacy Policy Priorities includes a commitment to “… work to build broad support for international development and humanitarian aid in Congress. Specifically, we will:
- Advocate to bolster funding levels to international poverty-focused programs as appropriate in the International Affairs budget;
- Oppose efforts by Administration or Congress to cut funds to these programs…”\(^1\); and

WHEREAS, The United States Government has historically provided direct aid to the Palestinian Authority, through grants to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and other agents; and

WHEREAS, US financial support to UNRWA for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, was reduced in January of 2018, creating a fiscal crisis for the agency, and stopped altogether in fall of 2018\(^2\); and

WHEREAS, the impact of these cuts will threaten “general education for 525,000 students, essential primary health care for 3 million patients and food assistance for 1.7 million refugees”\(^3\). therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly encourages ministers of Word and Service and ministers of Word and Sacrament to learn more about these issues; and to encourage congregation members to learn more and to engage in advocacy to request the President of the United States and all applicable legislators to restore funding at 2017 levels or higher for FY 2018 and beyond to the UNRWA for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, until the Israeli/Palestinian conflict is resolved;

RESOLVED that the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to request Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and synodical bishops, to request the President of the United States and all applicable legislators to restore funding at 2017 levels or higher for FY 2018 and beyond to the UNRWA for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, until the Israeli/Palestinian conflict is resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Christine Cowan, chair
Southeastern Iowa Synod Peace Not Walls Working Group

Adopted

