

THE FAMILY FARM

Social Policy Resolution

CA01.05.21



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Adopted by the 2001 Churchwide Assembly.

Resolved

To acknowledge the concerns related to the family farm raised in the memorial of the Minneapolis Area Synod and to reaffirm the action of the 1999 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to:

- pray for family farmers, their families, and rural communities;
- learn about the challenges facing family farms;
- support family farmers through advocacy for just legislation that protects family farms, the land, and the small towns they make possible;
- continue support for small town and rural congregations;

To commend the initiatives of the presiding bishop of this church who called together, in an historic meeting, the leaders of the National Farmers Organization, the Farm Bureau, and the Farmers' Union;

To support the areas of agreement that emerged from the March 2001 Rural Summit:

- insuring a safe, abundant food supply for the world;
- building upon, improving, or replacing existing structures to respond to the effects of low commodity pricing;
- providing human, financial, and spiritual resources for rural communities;
- providing opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and their communities to meet;
- studying agriculture concentration, industry-wide consolidation, and other phenomena and adopt legislation to promote fair, open, and competitive markets;
- emphasizing conservation, protection, and regeneration of land;
- educating agricultural producers and others on production and economics; and
- engaging in dialogue on issues related to rural and farm life.

To request that the director for rural ministry and networking continue to assist the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by working with ecumenical and other partners to respond to the farm and rural crisis and identify resources that can be used in that response.