

Reference and Counsel – Motion 2.7

MOTION 2.7

RELATING TO: Paper Waste and Consumption

SUBMITTED BY: The Youth & Young Adults Ministry Delegates

MOTION:

That the Eastern Synod Assembly, Synod Council, Congregations and individual members:

1. Consider the effects of paper waste produced by the Eastern Synod on the environment
2. Determine ways to further reduce our carbon footprint by limiting the use of paper photocopies, bulletins, and ballots where possible at the synod assembly and in congregations across the synod, for example, distributing materials during the assembly by email or via the synod website, with paper copies available on request.
3. Encourage the ELCIC assemblies to do the same.

RATIONALE:

Estimated paper use at this year's conference exceeds 6000 pieces of paper, and it takes between 2-6 weeks for the paper to biodegrade in landfills. Even when recycled, an abundance of chemical products, plastics, and water is used to fully recycle the paper. 42% of all trees in use are used in the production of paper, and the paper and pulp industry is the largest industrial user of water and one of the largest water polluters (<http://www.stopwaste.org/preventing-waste/impact-paper-waste>). To mitigate detrimental effects on the environment it is critical to adopt alternative means of distributing information, many of which are already in place but made redundant with the usage of paper copies. With the strong commitment of the ELCIC and the Eastern Synod in the reduction of waste, in the protection and stewardship of creation, and to ensuring a sustainable future for the church and the world, we propose the following motion.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adoption