# RESOLUTION in SUPPORT of the 11X15 CAMPAIGN for SAFER and HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS God's prophetic call to all God's people through the prophet Micah is "To do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God, and

WHEREAS our Lord Jesus leads us act for the betterment of prisoners through contact and pray (e.g. Matthew 5:43-48; 25:34-40), and

WHEREAS the redemptive, healing ministry of Jesus teaches us to do justice in ways that focus on restoration and not solely on retribution, and

WHEREAS the United States has the highest rate of incarceration of any country in the world,[1] and

WHEREAS Wisconsin incarcerates at twice the rate of Minnesota[2], and

WHEREAS Wisconsin incarcerates African Americans at more than twice the rate of Minnesota and Illinois[3], and

WHEREAS WISDOM, a network of congregation-based justice organizations in Wisconsin, with many ELCA congregations as members, has partnered with the Wisconsin Council of Churches in initiating the 11X15 Campaign; and

WHEREAS the 11X15 Campaign is designed to reduce the prison population by 11,000 by 2015 through the use of evidence-based initiatives such as:

- Treatment Alternatives and Diversionary programs (TAD),
- earned release programs,
- drug treatment programs,
- other restorative justice programs, and
- Circles of Support,
- day report centers, and

WHEREAS the 11X15 Campaign has offered a PowerPoint presentation about incarceration realities in Wisconsin and statewide efforts that reduce prison populations, emphasize restorative justice, and result in safer and healthier communities; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the La Crosse Area Synod support the 11X15 Campaign for Safer and Healthier Communities; and be it further

RESOLVED that all congregations of the La Crosse Area Synod be encouraged to show the 11X15 Campaign PowerPoint presentation as part of their educational programs; and be it further

RESOLVED that congregational members be encouraged to participate in the various opportunities for involvement in the 11X15 Campaign.

Submitted by the Synod Church in Society Committee

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[1] International Center for Prison Studies at King's College London. http://www.prisonstudies.org/info/worldbrief/wpb_stats_print.php?area=all&category=wb_poprate; and http://www.sentencingproject.org/map/map.cfm#map

[2] The Sentencing Project http://www.sentencingproject.org/map/map.cfm#map

[3] The Sentencing Project http://www.sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/rd_stateratesofincbyraceandethnicity.pdf