

CTS Justice Seekers Committee Resolution to join the Faith Action Network

Whereas: We are biblically called to be advocates for justice in our world:

- The Lord loves righteousness and justice. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of God's throne. *Psalms 33: 5 and 89: 14*
- Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights, and rob the oppressed people of justice. *Isaiah 10: 1-2*
- This is what the Lord says: Maintain justice and do what is right. For I, the Lord, love justice... and hate iniquity. *Isaiah 56: 1 and 61: 8*
- And the word of the Lord came again to Zechariah [saying], "This is what the Lord Almighty says, 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.'" *Zechariah 7: 8*
- And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. *Micah 6: 8*

Whereas: It is a goal to more fully live out the mission/pledge of Christ the Servant Lutheran Church to be a "justice-seeking community" ("We actively involve ourselves in the mission of promoting justice, peacemaking, and healing by demonstrating God's love and desire for relief for those who suffer. The community surrounding CTS would come to know us by our example and we would encourage community members to stand with us as witnesses in service.");

Whereas: Christ the Servant Lutheran Church aspires to continually support efforts of Social Justice and Community Service & Partnerships (two of the Five Core Themes for Ministry named in recent "Ministry Beyond the Mortgage" congregational focus groups);

Whereas: The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states, "As the ELCA, we believe God is calling us into the world to serve together. Through our direct service, we aid immediate needs before us. *Through our advocacy work, we impact systemic, long-lasting change.*";

Whereas: The Faith Action Network is an outgrowth of the ELCA's Lutheran Public Policy Office, and the co-director of Faith Action Network is an ordained ELCA pastor;

Whereas: The Faith Action Network engages in education and advocacy work, "is an interfaith statewide partnership striving for a just, compassionate, and sustainable world through community building, education, and courageous public action," and "believes justice work is part of our religious calling";

Whereas: The Faith Action Network connects us as a congregation with others who are also striving to make a positive impact on systems that will benefit the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable people in our communities;

Whereas: As a state-wide interfaith non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, the Faith Action Network advocates for legislative activity (and does NOT advocate for political candidates or parties) that supports the "least" among us: protecting the poor and vulnerable; affordable housing; criminal justice reform; environmental justice; immigrant families and civil rights; healthcare and mental health (2019 focus areas);

Be it **Resolved:** That Christ the Servant Lutheran Church continue to support its Mission and Core Values statements to be a justice-seeking congregation by joining with over 140 other Washington State faith communities as a member of the Faith Action Network.