

Pollinator Synod (from Synod EcoFaith Network)

WHEREAS, “the earth is the LORD’S and all that is in it” (Psalm 24:1) and God sends forth the Spirit to “renew the face of the ground” (Psalm 104:30); and

WHEREAS, the work of pollinators is essential to the integrity of the biosphere, the ecological wellbeing of all life across the world, particularly the sustainability of food production; and

WHEREAS, populations of pollinator species have been decreasing and are being threatened by climate change, diminishing habitat, and the use of pesticides and other chemicals; and

WHEREAS, the EcoFaith Network of the Northeastern MN Synod at the 2022 assembly launched a Pollinator Pilot Project in which six congregations were given seed kits to install pollinator friendly gardens on their church grounds with the purpose of inspiring more congregations in our synod to do the same; and

WHEREAS, the EcoFaith Network of the Northeastern MN Synod has nurtured relationships with and among these pollinator pilot project congregations and at least thirteen others through its ongoing virtual connection meetings in which ideas and support are shared for growing in creation care ministries and establishing pollinator gardens and Monarch Waystations; and

WHEREAS, the EcoFaith Network of the Northeastern MN Synod has this year planned and hosted an EcoFaith Summit, “The Pollinator Plot: Cross+Pollination in a Time of Ecological Crisis,” co-presented by three synod creation care groups across state lines (Northeastern MN Synod, Northwest Synod of WI, and St. Paul Area Synod) in which pollinator species – tiny, apparently powerless, often overlooked and disregarded creatures – were lifted up as a model and hope of the gospel paradox, of God’s regenerative power hidden in weakness; and

WHEREAS, the EcoFaith Network of the Northeastern MN Synod has cultivated “cross pollination” of creation care ministry ideas among and beyond our synod congregations through the website, Facebook page, annual EcoFaith summits, monthly e-newsletter Green Blades Rising, preaching roundtable, relationship building, and resource sharing; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northeastern MN Synod declare itself a Pollinator Synod, that is, a synod embracing a vision for regional regeneration of pollinator habitat, in which, with the guidance and equipping of the earth-renewing Spirit, all its congregations and expressions:

- promote pollinator friendly habitats on their church grounds, at home, and in the neighborhood,
 - work to eliminate the use of pesticides and other pollinator-harming chemicals on church grounds and encourage their members to do the same,
 - consider themselves “demonstration plots” for earth-honoring experimentation
- in worship, education, congregational life, building and grounds, and community action; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all of us, walking together as the synod, live into our call as pollinators of the gospel in our witness to God's love in Jesus Christ for all creation, sharing practices across our synod and beyond; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Northeastern MN Synod support these actions with the leadership of the EcoFaith Network, which is committed to assist congregations and their partners to live out God's call to be stewards of the earth for the sake of the whole creation.