

Assistance with Diapers and Female Hygiene Products

WHEREAS, one child in every 7 will be born into poverty in the United States, and there are more than 11 million infants and toddlers under age 3 years in the United States and of them 45 percent (5.2 million) live in low-income families and 23 percent (2.6 million) live in poor families: and

WHEREAS, one in three families struggle with diaper need, and the poorest 20 percent of families spend 14 percent of their income on diapers; and

WHEREAS, childcare providers require parents to have a supply of disposable diapers; in most cases, day care centers will not accept children without diapers; without child care parents cannot remain employed.

WHEREAS, some who wish to use cloth diapers do not have laundry facilities that allow for the proper washing and sanitizing of diapers; and

WHEREAS, 32% of low-income families report re-using diapers in order to pay critical household expenses such as rent, utilities and food, leading to severe diaper rash and staph infections: and

WHEREAS, federal programs like Food Stamps and WIC do not cover paper products, such as disposable diapers and female hygiene products and often describe these items as luxury items; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that synodical organizations strongly encourage congregational units and conferences/clusters provide educational materials on the needs of women and children living in poverty; and

Be it further resolved that, participants and congregational units are encouraged to reach out to local, state and federal governments officials and legislators to create and support legislation that will allow the inclusion of diapers and feminine hygiene products in low-income programs such as Food Stamps (SNAP) and WIC.

Be it further resolved that, participants and congregational units are encouraged to assist women and children in poverty by arranging opportunities to donate diapers and female hygiene products to local food banks and women's shelters.

Finally, be it further resolved that, Grand Canyon Women of the ELCA memorialize this resolution to the Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention in 2020.

Submitted by Women of the ELCA, Alleluia Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ

Reference and Counsel committee recommends approval of this resolution.

Adopted at the convention November 9, 2018.