RESOLUTION 2018:1  
(Revised Version Approved by Assembly)

WHEREAS, Society is extremely divided over political and social issues and public policy, and

WHEREAS, The church is not of this world, but it in this world and the Nebraska Synod, in S6.02(c) of its Constitution is committed to: "Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs," and,

WHEREAS, Pastors and other rostered leaders are called to preach and teach "publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God’s love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad," (Synod Const. S14.32(c)," but they are not specifically trained to preach or teach about how our faith informs public policy or how to address the dominant culture that is co-opting our faith. Further, they are at least tacitly discouraged from doing so lest they offend someone. now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Nebraska Synod of the ELCA in Assembly direct the Synod’s Justice, Hunger, and Global Mission Team to discuss and to make recommendations to the 2019 Nebraska Synod Assembly to strengthen the commitment of the Church in addressing the political, social and ideological differences in our society through our faith, and to discuss how to better equip pastors and others to effectively preach and teach prophetically to a world in need of justice.

And be it further RESOLVED that the Justice, Hunger, and Global Mission Team report on its work to the Bishop and the 2019 Nebraska Synod Assembly with recommendations and resolutions, if any.

Submitted by:
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RECOMMENDATION & RATIONALE OF THE NEBRASKA SYNOD COUNCIL:  That resolution 2018:1 not be adopted by the 2018 Nebraska Synod Assembly, but that the Synod’s Justice, Hunger and Global Mission Team be directed by the Synod Council to identify resources that could be used by rostered leaders in dealing with ideological divisiveness in our society to assist our congregations.