

Campaign Finance Social Statement

“This church shall seek to... contribute toward the upbuilding of the common good and the revitalizing of public life through open and inclusive processes of deliberation.”

-ELCA Church in Society Social Statement

From Economic Life Social Statement:

We commit ourselves as a church and urge members to...educate one another, beginning with the young, on how to deal responsibly with money, credit, and spending within one’s means;

The economic power of large transnational corporations continues to grow, making some of them larger than many national economies. Along with this financial strength comes an inordinate potential to influence political decisions, local and regional economies, and democratic processes in society. The power they wield, enhanced through mergers and buyouts, can have positive effects, but it can also hold others captive to transnational corporate interests. The global community must continue to seek effective ways to hold these and other powerful economic actors more accountable for the sake of sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all.

We call for:

- corporate policies that lessen the disparities between compensations of top corporate executives and that of the workers throughout an organization;
- corporate governance that is accountable for the effects of a company’s practices on workers, communities, and the environment here and throughout the world;
- scrutiny of the tax breaks, subsidies, and incentives many companies receive, to assure that they serve the common good;
- enforcement of laws to prevent the exercise of inordinate market power by large corporations;
- appropriate government regulatory reform so that governments can monitor private sector practices more effectively and efficiently in an ever-changing global economy.