

1-07: To Love Our Neighbor by Rebuking False Doctrine (*Overture 2-03, Convention Workbook page 137*)

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ, who has all authority in heaven and on earth, commands us to make disciples by baptizing in the Triune name and by teaching all that He has commanded (Matthew 28:18-20); and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Confessions, because they are a right exposition of God's Word stand as the doctrinal standard for our congregations, church body, and its institutions, confess that "the sole rule and standard according to which all dogmas together with [all] teachers should be estimated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and of the New Testament alone" (Formula of Concord Epitome [FC Ep.] Preface 1); and

WHEREAS, In our times ideologies by various names have arisen which reject both the authority and truth of God's Word, claiming as authoritative standard for judgment each person's individual self-determination, as shaped by categories including class, race, sex, perceived gender identity, sexual preference, economic condition, and/or the intersection of any perceived grievances; and

WHEREAS, After the fall into sin humankind has done injustice and suffered evils that perpetuate our poor miserable condition, which evokes in the Christian the compassionate, loving desire for prudent works of mercy as ordered by God's Word, and the commitment to give bold, clear and steadfast witness to Jesus as the One who is our true peace and who alone breaks down dividing walls of hostility, reconciling us to God and each other through His blood shed on the cross (Ephesians 2:13-22); and

WHEREAS, Some prevailing ideologies confuse belief in and commitment to "Diversity," "Equity," and "Inclusion" (as popularly understood) as constitutive of "righteousness", prescribing social policies as the means by which the human condition will be made right; and

WHEREAS, Belief in false doctrine and participation in its practices are fatal to Christian faith and discipleship, and yet many of our children and institutions may be led into error through ignorance of these false doctrines, or lack of preparation in how best to love our suffering neighbors as Christians, as the Lord says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6a); therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of the congregations of the Indiana District examine themselves and repent where they have failed to love their neighbors by rebuking false doctrine (2 Timothy 4:1-7; Ephesians 4:14-15; Galatians 6:1); and be it further

Resolved, That the pastors and congregations of the Indiana District affirm their confession of the authority of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as well as affirm their confession that "the sole rule and standard according to which all dogmas together with [all] teachers should be estimated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and of the New Testament alone" (FC Ep. Preface 1); and be it further

Resolved, That the pastors and congregations of the Indiana District identify as false doctrine and condemn any ideology, doctrine, teaching, or movement which claims the authority of an individual's self-determination over and above the Lord God speaking in His Word (Deuteronomy 12:8; Proverbs 12:15; Jeremiah 23:28), by whatever diversity of name(s) these ideologies may clearly be known; and be it further

Resolved, That the pastors and congregations of the Indiana District reject any organization, trainings, movement, or ethic, by whatever diversity of name(s) they may clearly be known, which promise righteousness through social action, perpetuates discontent through grievance, reduces the human person's essence to such categories like those listed above, or contradicts the Word and thereby the unity Christians have in it (2 Corinthians 6:14-16; FC Ep. Preface 1; Ephesians 4:1-16; Galatians 1:6-10); and be it further

Resolved, That the pastors and congregations of the Indiana District call on their members to love their neighbors as Christians, rejecting policy and language which come from worldly presuppositions, but instead discovering ways to show mercy to their neighbors within the framework of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions for what

constitutes righteousness, just action for the love of neighbor, and unity through repentant faith in Christ Jesus (Matthew 12:30; John 14:6); and be it further

Resolved, That the Indiana District President, on behalf of the Indiana District, exhort, encourage, and assist the education institutions of the Indiana District (which are under direct assault from these false teachings and social actions) to remain steadfast in believing, teaching, and confessing the authority of God in His Word, and not to use "commitment to and belief in diversity, equity, and inclusion" as a rule or standard to evaluate those serving in them; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Indiana District in convention memorialize the 2023 LCMS Convention to exhort, encourage, and assist the education institutions of our church body (which are under direct assault from these false teachings and social actions) to remain steadfast in believing, teaching, and confessing the authority of God in His Word, and not to use "commitment to and belief in diversity, equity, and inclusion" as a rule or standard to evaluate those serving in them.

Floor Committee 1 – Theology, Education, & Outreach
Rev. Eric Ahlemeyer, Chair Paul Wendt, Secretary

Pastor Clark's Substitute Resolution 1-07: To Call the Church to Further Develop Sound Teaching and Practice through Careful Dialogue Regarding Race, Economics, Sex, and Gender

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ, who has all authority in heaven and on earth, commands us to make disciples by baptizing in the Triune name and by teaching all that He has commanded, (Matt 28:18-20); and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Confessions, because they are a right exposition of God's Word stand as the doctrinal standard for our congregations, church body, and its institutions, confess that "the sole rule and standard according to which all dogmas together with [all] teachers should be estimated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and of the New Testament alone," (FC Ep 1); and

WHEREAS, In our times, a wide range of teachings on race, economics, sex, and gender have arisen that invoke "identities" based in these categories as well as key terms like social justice, "intersectionality," diversity, equity, inclusion and more; and

WHEREAS, Many of these teachings appear to co-mingle truth and error; and

WHEREAS, After the fall into sin humankind has done injustice and suffered evils that perpetuate our poor miserable condition, which evokes in the Christian the compassionate desire for prudent works of love, mercy, and justice (Mi 6:8) as ordered by God's Word, and the commitment to give bold, clear and steadfast witness to Jesus as the One who is our true peace and who alone breaks down dividing walls of hostility, reconciling us to God and each other through His blood shed on the cross (Eph 2:13-22); and

WHEREAS, Collective, formal, organized, synod-wide discernment and conversation on these matters should begin with haste, both because new teachings and practices are spreading and above all, because the issues are urgent in the lives of people, whom God and His Church love; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Indiana District in convention renew its confession of the authority of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and its confession that "the sole rule and standard according to which all dogmas together with [all] teachers should be estimated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and of the New Testament alone," (FC Ep 1); and be it further

Resolved, That the Indiana District memorialize the 2023 LCMS Convention to establish a Task Force drawn from the CTCR; Seminaries; Concordia Universities; LCMS Organizations and individuals dealing particularly closely with race and racism, poverty and economics, sexuality and gender; as well as pastors and laity at large—which, from August 2023 to August 2024, will:

- A. Seek input from all corners of Synod that: identifies the most urgent lived issues and key teachings with regard to race, economics, and sex and gender—including but not limited to those named above; reflects on these in light of the whole counsel of God; identifies on this basis key areas for both positive concern and cooperation and rebuke of error in both Church and world; and then, on this basis, recommends criteria for addressing related issues in hiring and other policies of our Synod, congregations, schools, and universities.
- B. Foster an interactive dialogue between responses in a forum that includes online access to position papers and/or recorded statements, as well as personal interaction among representatives of the main positions,
- C. At the end of that year, draw up a summary report of the major arguments and counter-arguments with the Task Force's own responses and final recommendations, to be published online as soon as possible and no later than two months prior to the overture deadline for the following Synodical Convention.
- D. Offer this report also at the following Synodical Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Indiana District urge its member congregations and pastors to participate in such a process and to prepare for it even now with discussions in circuit conferences and forums.

Respectfully submitted:

The Rev. Dr. Adam Clark

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