

To the 63rd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
February 16-18, 2025

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-01**

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3 **SUBJECT: LCMS SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT TO CONTINUE TOGETHER IN MISSION (TIM)**
4 **SUPPORT AND TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONAL INVOLVEMENT THEREIN**

5
6 **RATIONALE:**

7 Since the 53rd Convention of The South Dakota District (1994), the District in Convention
8 has adopted resolutions to partner with missionaries in a variety of mission fields. The
9 initial District Convention resolution, Resolution 1-02 (1994), resolved that the financial gifts
10 given to Together In Mission (TIM) by District congregations were to be “over and above”
11 each congregation’s regular offerings for Synod and District mission support. By District
12 Convention action, those missionaries or projects receiving support from District
13 congregations through Together In Mission since 1994 have been:

- 14
- 15 • Amy Kashenov serving in Kazakhstan (1994-2012)
- 16 • Global Seminary Initiative, seminaries in Tanzania, Africa and Novosibirsk, Russia
17 (2013-14)
- 18 • Rev. Dr. Alan Ludwig, instructor at the Lutheran seminary in Novosibirsk, Russia
19 (2015-2018)
- 20 • Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, serving in Southeast Asia and Rev. David Warner, serving in
21 Spain (2018-2021)
- 22 • Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, Southeast Asia, and Rev. Dr. Corey Rajek, serving in Eurasia
23 (2021-2025).
- 24

25 Then, late in 2023, the District President, at the Board of Directors’ urging (and apart from
26 District Convention action), put to the congregations the opportunity to support, via TIM,
27 other missionaries from South Dakota sent to overseas mission fields in the past triennium.
28 By a majority vote (72-3), the measure was adopted. At the time, Rev. Samuel Bobby was
29 serving in Latvia, and Revs. Jordon Andreasen and Jonah Domenichelli, had received
30 notice of calls to Romania and Germany, respectively. The two, subsequently, accepted
31 the calls. All three – Missionaries Bobby, Andreasen, and Domenichelli – began receiving
32 TIM support from South Dakota, toward the end of the past triennium. Meanwhile, Rev.
33 Dr. Cory Rajek’s TIM support ended after the District’s 2023 fiscal year, because he
34 became the Executive Director of the Office of International Mission of the LCMS.

35

36 For the coming triennium, convention delegates are asked to consider renewing the LCMS
37 South Dakota District’s commitment to support God’s mission efforts abroad through the
38 TIM program.

39

40 **WHEREAS,** God’s mission (the *Missio Dei*, which belongs to Him and His love for the world) centers in
41 the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16-17); AND

42

43 **WHEREAS,** Just as God the Father sent (*apostello*) His Son Jesus into the world, Jesus sends all
44 believers into the world to “seek and to save the lost” (John 20:21-23; Luke 19:10); AND

45

46 **WHEREAS,** The Lord continues to call His Church from among the nations around the world to work
47 mutually in sending and receiving “laborers for the harvest” until that day when our Lord’s
48 mission is complete (Ephesians 4:1-7; Matthew 9:35-10:1); AND

49

50 **WHEREAS,** In Article 3.2, “Objectives” of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Constitution,
51 it states that the Synod shall “strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold
52 witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
53 and extend that Gospel witness into all the world;” AND

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- WHEREAS,** Continued support by District congregations of a Together In Mission project is faithful to Christ’s desire for His Church and to the Synod’s stated objectives; **THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED:** That the District in convention affirm and ratify the 2023 vote by congregations of the District to add to its TIM offering recipients those pastors from South Dakota who accepted calls to overseas mission work, late in the past triennium; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED:** That the District in convention express its thanks to God for blessing the mission work of the last triennium’s (Dec. 2021 – Feb. 2025) Together In Mission recipients: Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, missionary to Southeast Asia; Rev. Dr. Cory Rajek, Rev. Samuel Bobby, Rev. Jordon Andreasen, and Rev. Jonah Domenichelli, missionaries to Eurasia; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED:** That the District congregations adopt Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, missionary to Southeast Asia, and missionaries to Eurasia: Rev. Jordon Andreasen (Romania), Rev. Samuel Bobby (Latvia), and Rev. Jonah Domenichelli (Germany), as the recipients of the District’s TIM offerings, in equal measure, for the 2025-2028 triennium; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED:** That should other missionaries from South Dakota be called to overseas LCMS missionary service in the next triennium, they, too, will receive an equal share of the District’s TIM support for the balance of the triennium; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED:** That should any of these missionaries retire from active missionary service or return from the mission field before 2028, the balance of the TIM offerings will go in equal measure to the missionaries still remaining in the field. If all of these workers should retire or return from the mission field before our next convention, the South Dakota District’s Board of Directors will determine which missionary or missionaries will receive our congregations’ TIM offerings for the remainder of the triennium; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED:** That every congregation of The South Dakota District, regardless of size, be encouraged to partner with the other District congregations by 1) remembering the work of missionaries Jastram, Bobby, Andreasen, and Domenichelli in their corporate and individual prayers and 2) by providing an annual commitment to TIM over and above their regular support of Synod and District missions; **AND BE IT FINALLY**
- RESOLVED:** That the District President and the Assistant to the President work with the Office of International Mission of the LCMS to arrange for possible FOROs (Spanish for *forum*) in the Eurasia mission field, in the coming triennium, to give members of South Dakota District congregations the on-site opportunity to learn and serve and to encourage our missionaries and their families (cf. 2023 Synod Res. 2-07A).

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Greg Lehr, Chairman

Commissioned Minister Hope Genzlinger

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Reverend Chris Davis

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Mr. Dave Peterson

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Mr. Brad Schardin

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1 **RESOLUTION: 2-02**

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3 **SUBJECT: TO CONTINUE THE MISSION AND MINISTRY COUNCIL FOR THE SUPPORT OF**
4 **WORKERS AND MINISTRIES**

5
6 **BACKGROUND:**

7 Over the years, the South Dakota District has utilized various committee structures for
8 providing resources to the ministries and workers within the District. For example, the
9 Service Area format was in place from 2006 through 2021 (cf. 2006 Res. 1-34); those
10 Service Areas were identified as Outreach, Parish Services, and Young Adult and Youth.

11 While the Service Area structure provided many blessings in the 15 years of its existence,
12 the types, sources, and delivery of ministry resources for church workers, congregations,
13 and schools changed dramatically in this electronic age. Our workers often find it more
14 convenient to turn to the internet for resources than to rely on and wait for resources
15 produced by the District. Moreover, recruiting our already busy church workers for service
16 on the committees of our District has grown more challenging.

17 Therefore, at the 2021 Convention of the District, the Service Area structure was
18 “suspended for the 2022-2025 triennium,” and in its place a “Mission and Ministry Council”
19 comprised of representatives from every circuit in the District was authorized for the 2021-
20 2025 triennium (cf. 2021 Res. 2-04). At this time, the Mission and Ministry Council has 10
21 members (8 laypeople, 1 commissioned minister, and 1 ordained minister) and 4 advisory
22 members (the District President, 1st Vice-President, the Assistant to the President, and the
23 District’s Education Executive). The Council is chaired by one of the laypersons and is
24 “supervised” by the Assistant to the President. Members are appointed by the District
25 President and 1st Vice-President.

26 Since it began operating in December of 2022, the Mission and Ministry Council has helped
27 to organize the P.A.S.S. It On! congregational resource workshops in November 2023 and
28 November 2024, and a Men’s Retreat, held in December 2023, in Brookings, and another
29 held in the Black Hills, the summer of 2024.

30 **WHEREAS,** In the past triennium, the Mission and Ministry Council structure of providing support and
31 ministry resources has resulted in providing a variety of helpful events that have brought
32 together church workers and church members for fellowship, education, and equipping for
33 service; AND

34 **WHEREAS,** The involvement and interaction of laypersons and church workers on the Council has been
35 particularly dynamic, yielding fresh ideas for Christian growth and service; AND

36 **WHEREAS,** Per Resolution 2-04 (2021), the Mission and Ministry Council and Board of Directors have
37 been charged to bring a plan for ongoing structure to provide support and ministry
38 resources, the Board of Directors of the LCMS South Dakota District recommends
39 continuing the Mission and Ministry Council concept; THEREFORE BE IT

40 **RESOLVED:** That the Mission and Ministry Council format be affirmed and that it be authorized by this
41 Convention of the District for continuation; AND BE IT FINALLY

42 **RESOLVED:** That the 63rd Regular Convention of the LCMS South Dakota District affirm these goals
43 for the work of the Mission and Ministry Council, as put forward in the original 2021 Res.
44 2-04:

- 45 1) Identify the pressing human and spiritual needs of our neighbors, especially
46 that of hearing the Gospel;

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- 47 2) Identify the pressing personal and ministry needs of LCMS church workers
48 and the needs and opportunities of LCMS congregations, schools, and other
49 ministries in South Dakota;
- 50 3) Prioritize the needs and plan ways to address those needs and opportunities;
- 51 4) Make provision to implement vehicles to address needs and opportunities
52 (e.g., assigning ad hoc committees, conducting workshops, producing
53 resources); and
- 54 5) Consider possible superior structures to provide support and ministry
55 resources to church workers and congregations, schools, and other
56 ministries.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Greg Lehr, Chairman

Hope Genzlinger, Commissioned Minister

Reverend Chris Davis

Mr. Dave Peterson

Mr. Brad Schardin

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-03**

2 **SUBJECT: TO CONTINUE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT (LCMS)**
3 **AND LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE (IOWA)**

4
5 **HISTORY:**

6 In 2018, Lutheran Family Service of Iowa (LFS) approached the Board of Directors of the
7 South Dakota District about the possibility of working cooperatively in South Dakota. LFS
8 is a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. They are
9 owned by Missouri Synod congregations in Iowa and receive support from the Iowa East
10 and West Districts of the LCMS. They do not receive funding from any governmental
11 organization and so are free to practice our common Christian faith.
12

13 The District entered into an agreement with LFS in December 2019 for LFS (1) to be
14 available to consult with pastors and other church workers in the counseling work of the
15 parish, (2) to work with church workers and their families about issues that those individuals
16 and families are struggling with through telehealth counseling with counselors from LFS in
17 Iowa, and (3) to train people in South Dakota to help others in various areas such as Elder
18 Care, Dementia, Addictions, and Marriage challenges.
19

20 The 2021 South Dakota District Convention resolved “to expand this ministry by asking
21 God to open our eyes to whatever other good works “which God has prepared in advance,
22 that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10), and to “commit to LFS \$75,000 for 2022,
23 \$75,000 for 2023, and \$50,000 for 2024 to fund start-up costs and the operation of this
24 ministry”. Half of the money was to come “from gifts and bequests that the District has
25 received over the years and the other half would come from the congregations of the South
26 Dakota District as ‘an over and above’ giving similar to our present ‘Together in Mission
27 (TIM)’ gifts.”
28

29 In 2022 the District received \$54,192 for LFS from the congregations of the District, 2023-
30 \$53,301, 2024-\$43,873. The goal for 2025 would be \$50,000. It will take a concerted effort
31 on the part of all the congregations of the District to reach this goal.
32

33 This commitment to LFS would be similar to the one the District makes with the Synod
34 concerning TIM. For TIM the District pledges \$40,000 a year and would take that amount
35 out of District funds if the money doesn’t come in from congregations. Every year the
36 congregations have provided significantly more than that: 2022-\$71,759, 2023-\$75,849,
37 2024-\$94,238. Every dollar received for TIM is sent on to the Synod. In other words, we
38 have not had to take any money from District funds.
39

40 The pledge for LFS would be the same amount (\$40,000 annually) with the same
41 arrangement: every dollar received would be sent on to LFS and if we don’t receive enough
42 for the full pledge the money will be taken from District funds.
43

44 **WHEREAS;** The South Dakota District (LCMS) has been in partnership with Lutheran Family Service
45 (Iowa) since 2019. Lutheran Family Service has provided counseling, adoption and other
46 services to individuals, church workers and their families, as well as congregations. The
47 SD District has provided financial and other support to LFS, AND
48

49 **WHEREAS;** This arrangement has grown over the years to include counseling offices on both sides of
50 South Dakota as well as tele-health which is accessible throughout the State, AND
51

52 **WHEREAS;** The need for these services continues to grow exponentially, THEREFORE BE IT
53

- 54 **RESOLVED:** That the current partnership be continued for the next triennium, AND BE IT FURTHER
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56 **RESOLVED:** That together we will seek to expand this ministry by asking God to open our eyes to
57 whatever good works “which God has prepared in advance, that we should walk in them”
58 (Ephesians 2:10), AND BE IT FURTHER
59
60 **RESOLVED:** That the money for LFS would primarily come from the congregations of the South Dakota
61 District as money pledged and given over and above the regular contributions given for the
62 work of District and Synod. This would be in a similar way as the South Dakota District
63 funds its commitment to “Together in Mission,” AND BE IT FINALLY
64
65 **RESOLVED:** That this partnership with LFS would regularly be evaluated by the District Board of
66 Directors and that the 2028 District Convention would reassess the partnership at that time.
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68 Respectfully Submitted,
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71 Reverend Greg Lehr, Chairman
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74 Hope Genzlinger, Commissioned Minister
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77 Reverend Chris Davis
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79 _____
80 Mr. Dave Peterson

Mr. Brad Schardin

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1 **RESOLUTION: 2-04**

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3 **SUBJECT: TO ENCOURAGE WORKER WELLNESS AND IMPLEMENT A STATEGIC PLAN FOR**
4 **ADDRESSING WORKER WELLNESS**

5
6 **WHEREAS,** Mankind is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26), and even in our fallen state God
7 continues to care and provide in great abundance (Isaiah 55:10 & Psalm 104:15-30); above
8 all the assurance of salvation through Jesus (John 3:16) so that we might share in His joy
9 for now and eternity (John 15:11) and that, as His people, we be well in body, mind, and
10 spirit (3 John 2-3); AND

11 **WHEREAS,** The devil, the world, and our sinful nature seek to rob and destroy the joy and health of all
12 people (John 10:10), including the men and women whom God has called into service as
13 ordained and commissioned ministers of the church by way of illness, discouragement,
14 disappointment, loneliness, and frustration, to the point that, according to reports by the
15 Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, 24 percent of church workers are diagnosed with
16 anxiety and depression and 40 percent have considered leaving the ministry due to
17 compounding stress; AND

18 **WHEREAS,** God, the One who gives many and various gifts, has blessed His world with people who
19 serve in a variety of vocations including health sciences and caregiving to serve our well-
20 being; AND

21 **WHEREAS,** 2021 District Convention Resolution 2-06 encouraged church workers and congregations
22 to “become familiar with and utilize the various tools and supports at their disposal to
23 restore, maintain, and increase their spiritual, emotional, relational, financial, vocational,
24 and physical wellness,” AND

25 **WHEREAS,** 2023 Synod Convention Resolution 1-06A directed the Council of Presidents to “prioritize
26 the matter of the wellness of church workers and their families through the development of
27 a strategic plan for worker care that can be disseminated to and replicated by the district
28 presidents,” AND

29 **WHEREAS,** 2023 Synod Convention Resolution 1-07 encouraged workers “to use the resources
30 available through Concordia Plan Services (such as the Employee Assistance Program)
31 or other similar programs not in conflict with our confession” and “congregations, circuit
32 visitors, and district presidents of the Synod be encouraged to support the mental well-
33 being of pastors and other professional church workers” and “each district of the Synod be
34 encouraged to make available a paid or volunteer district mental health advocate for
35 pastors and other professional church workers,” AND

36 **WHEREAS,** In extending a call to a worker the congregation obligates itself to support workers and
37 provide for them, including care for health and well-being; THEREFORE BE IT

38 **RESOLVED:** That church workers be encouraged to avail themselves of appropriate care to sustain and
39 regain spiritual, emotional, relational, financial, vocational, and physical wellness from
40 reputable agencies, such as mental health resources of Lutheran Family Service; AND BE
41 IT FURTHER

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43 **RESOLVED:** That the District President, with the assistance of Lutheran Family Service Iowa (LFS) and
44 the District Parish Nurse Representative, develop and implement a strategic plan for

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45 worker care congruent with recommendations of the Council of Presidents' strategic plan;
46 AND BE IT FURTHER

47 **RESOLVED:** That church workers and congregations become familiar with the common themes
48 surrounding the topic of worker wellness identified by Synod through worker surveys and
49 group discussions (<https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/church-worker-wellness>)
50 and utilize resources, tools, and supports in each area; AND BE IT FURTHER

51 **RESOLVED:** That congregations (including Chairmen and Board of Elders), ministry staff, Lutheran
52 School Boards, and Winkels be encouraged to designate appropriate time in meetings to
53 discussion and planning for worker wellness; AND BE IT FINALLY

54 **RESOLVED:** That ordained and commissioned ministers, congregations, and Lutheran schools give
55 thanks to God for the work that has been done in these areas and for the many and various
56 ways that the Lord provides for the needs of body and soul for all His people, joining with
57 St. Paul in saying, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your
58 reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about
59 anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests
60 be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will
61 guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

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Respectfully Submitted,

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Reverend Greg Lehr, Chairman

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Hope Genzlinger, Commissioned Minister

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Reverend Chris Davis

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Mr. Brad Schardin

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Reverend Chris Davis

Mr. Dave Peterson

Mr. Brad Schardin

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-06**

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3 **SUBJECT: ADOPTION— ONE OF GOD’S WAYS TO BUILD HIS FAMILY**

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5 **WHEREAS,** In the Old Testament several people were adopted: Moses by Pharoah’s daughter, Esther
6 by Mordecai. Also, in the Old Testament there are many passages encouraging God’s
7 people to look out for widows and orphans: “Father of the fatherless and protector of
8 widows is God in his holy habitation” (Psalm 68:5), and “He executes justice for the
9 fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing”
10 (Deuteronomy 10:18), AND

11
12 **WHEREAS,** In the New Testament, already in the first chapter, adoption is front and center as Joseph
13 adopts Jesus. Adoption is also one way God describes how he chooses his people. “They
14 are the Israelites, and to them belongs the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of
15 the law, the worship, and promises” (Romans 9:4). “But when the fullness of time had
16 come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who
17 were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons,
18 God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Galatians 4:4-
19 6). “He predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to
20 the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us
21 in the Beloved” (Ephesians 1:6-7), AND

22
23 **WHEREAS,** In Baptism God has adopted us to be his own and he calls us to invite more into his family
24 by teaching his Word, baptizing through his Word, and living as his people, AND

25
26 **WHEREAS,** There are thousands of children across this country who are waiting to be adopted, AND

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28 **WHEREAS,** There are many with special circumstances who are also waiting: embryos, those with
29 disabilities, older children/young adults, THEREFORE IT BE

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31 **RESOLVED:** That congregations, schools, and church workers study the issue of adoption, AND BE IT
32 FURTHER

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34 **RESOLVED:** That the use of educational materials from Lutherans for Life be studied and promoted,
35 AND BE IT FURTHER

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37 **RESOLVED:** That we support the work of the various Crisis Pregnancy Centers in South Dakota such
38 as the Alpha Center, Option 1, Black Hills Pregnancy Center (among others) AND BE IT
39 FINALLY,

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41 **RESOLVED:** That we promote the work of Lutheran Family Service (Iowa) and other Recognized Service
42 Organizations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who have been and continue to be
43 involved with adoption placement and support.

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46 Respectfully Submitted,

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50 _____
51 Reverend Greg Lehr, Chairman

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55 Hope Genzlinger, Commissioned Minister

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Reverend Chris Davis

Mr. Dave Peterson

Mr. Brad Schardin

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1 **RESOLUTION:** 2-09 [Overture 2-10]
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3 **SUBJECT:** TO STUDY, REPENT OF, AND STAND AGAINST RACISM
4

5 **WHEREAS;** The creating, redeeming, and sanctifying love of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
6 embraces all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, or skin color, through Christ gathering
7 all to Himself so that, “Here there is not Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised,
8 barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all” (Colossians 3:11); AND
9

10 **WHEREAS;** “God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should
11 not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16), and Jesus desires that His Word be preached
12 to “all nations” (Matthew 28:19 and Luke 24:46-47); AND
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14 **WHEREAS;** The LCMS, in Synod Convention, recently stated that our church body “rejects any doctrine
15 or ideology that teaches superiority of one race, ancestry or nationality over another” and
16 called on “Synod’s congregations and church workers, and its national and district workers
17 [to] engage vigorously in the Great Commission to see all people of every color and
18 ethnicity come to faith in Christ and be incorporated in LCMS congregations” (2023 Synod
19 Res. 11-02A); AND
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21 **WHEREAS;** A growing number of false teachers and media sources including podcasts are seeking to
22 associate confessional Lutheranism with devotion of Adolf Hitler, opposition to and
23 deportation of the Jews and Muslims, and condemn as sin the practice of interracial
24 marriage and adoption and desire for segregation of blacks from white society;
25 THEREFORE BE IT
26

27 **RESOLVED:** That the LCMS South Dakota District affirms 2023 Synod Resolution 11-02A “To Reject All
28 Forms of Racism and Affirm Our Witness to All People,” which references the use and
29 study of the 1994 Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) Report, *Racism
30 and the Church: Overcoming the Idolatry*; AND BE IT FINALLY
31

32 **RESOLVED:** That the pastors, church workers, and congregations of the LCMS South Dakota District
33 be encouraged to study 2023 Synod Resolution 11-02A and the 1994 CTCR Report
34 *Racism and the Church: Overcoming the Idolatry*
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- 36 • To be informed about God’s unchanging perspective regarding the value bestowed on all people
37 by their Creator, since we all have been created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27; 9:6; cf. Acts
38 17:25, 26) and redeemed by Christ (John 1:29; I John 2:2; I Timothy 2:6); and
- 39 • To lead them to repent of any racism they themselves may harbor, working toward forgiveness,
40 understanding, and unity with all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, or skin color; and
- 41 • To prepare God’s people to speak against instances of racism that they encounter.
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43 Respectfully Submitted,
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45 _____
46 Reverend Greg Lehr, Chairman
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49 Hope Genzlinger, Commissioned Minister
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52 Reverend Chris Davis
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Mr. Dave Peterson

Mr. Brad Schardin