

1  
2 RESOLUTION 3–03A: TO STUDY THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT’S MINISTRY WITH  
3 MULTIETHNIC COMMUNITIES AND GROW IN OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ACTIONS OF RACIAL  
4 RECONCILIATION CLEARLY AFFIRM BIBLICAL TRUTH.

5 Referencing Overtures 3–05 and 3–07

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, the Synod in convention (2019 Resolution 11–04A, “To Affirm the Common  
8 Humanity of All People and Ethnicities”) resolved “that the members of the congregations of  
9 the Synod be encouraged to work toward racial reconciliation and equality within the Church  
10 and within society-at-large”; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, racism was defined in the 2019 Resolution as “a belief that race is the primary  
13 determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent  
14 superiority of a particular race”; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, the 2019 Resolution said, “Racism has no basis in Scripture or the Lutheran  
17 Confessions, but rather is consistent with atheistic evolutionary ideologies and movements that  
18 claim the supremacy of one people group over another”; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, racism “manifests itself in actions that adversely affect the lives of others...especially  
21 when those who are in a position to enforce their prejudices use their influence to harm others  
22 regarded as inferior, and even to exploit them” (“Racism and the Church”, CTCR 1994, p. 11);  
23 and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, the Church is called to confess clearly and boldly Biblical Truth, repudiating and  
26 confessing unscriptural falsehoods, even when such confession is unpopular before the world,  
27 and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, Paul exhorts Christians to “take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but  
30 instead expose them” (Ephesians 5:11), and

31  
32 **WHEREAS**, the CTCR states, “racism must be regarded among the ‘works of darkness’ that  
33 produce nothing of any value to anyone. The church, aware of its history in the United States,  
34 must continually employ methods grounded in the Word and sacraments and in the proper  
35 distinction between Law and Gospel—to expose, condemn, and remove [racism]” (“Racism and  
36 the Church”, CTCR 1994, p. 39); and

37  
38 **WHEREAS**, the people of God are striving to live faithfully, but still participate in sinful thoughts,  
39 words, and deeds in what they do and leave undone (1 John 1:8–10), which can and has  
40 included the sin of racism; and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, Jesus tells us that the greatest commandments are to love God and love your  
43 neighbor (Mark 12:30–31); and Jesus illustrates for his disciples that they are to treat all  
44 persons as neighbor (Luke 10:29–37); and Paul exhorts us to show the love of Christ as we

1 “bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2); and ‘He has told you, O man, what is good; and  
2 what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly  
3 with your God?’ (Micah 6:8) and Martin Luther, in his explanations of the fifth and seventh  
4 commandments, extolls us to show that love as we care for our neighbors as we support them  
5 in their needs, well-being, income, and property; therefore be it  
6

7 **RESOLVED**, that we as the Northern Illinois District affirm the importance of discussion and  
8 study of sensitive issues, including race relations, through District sponsored forums, Circuit led  
9 conversations and Bible studies, and be it further  
10

11 **RESOLVED**, that, the District President will commission an ethnically diverse task force,  
12 including professional church workers, laypeople with background in such work, and young  
13 adults, to study the Northern Illinois District’s history of mission, ministry, and education within  
14 multiethnic communities, to be completed within twelve months, and be it further  
15

16 **RESOLVED**, that the results of this task force’s study would also provide us with tangible ways  
17 to move forward in our present and future outreach efforts in multiethnic communities; and be  
18 it further  
19

20 **RESOLVED**, that the study will be distributed to all congregations in the Northern Illinois District  
21 and made available on the district website; and be it further  
22

23 **RESOLVED**, that we encourage the congregations of the Northern Illinois District to address the  
24 results of this study which exemplifies the ministry of reconciliation which Christ has given to us  
25 (2 Corinthians 5:11–21); and be it further  
26

27 **RESOLVED**, that we as the Northern Illinois District confess and affirm the following Biblical  
28 Truths:  
29

- 30 • That all people are created by God and are children of Adam and Noah, so that there is  
31 truly one human race.
- 32 • That the Christ was sent to die for the sins of the whole world, as St John says, “and not  
33 our sins only, but for the sins of the whole world,” for “God so loved the world that He  
34 gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have  
35 everlasting life.” And be it finally  
36

37 **RESOLVED**, that all members of NID congregations be encouraged to implement the LCMS 2019  
38 resolution (11–04A)  
39

40 *Action: An amendment was proposed to insert the following words after “twelve months” in the*  
41 *second resolve: “; this study will acknowledge the racism in our district’s history and the need*  
42 *for this work of justice so that we might better make confession of our failures and recognize*  
43 *where God has granted growth to His church.” The amendment failed. Another amendment was*  
44 *proposed to add the following words after “multiethnic communities” in the second resolve: “in*

- 1 *light of the Scriptural foundation of law and gospel which reveal and give the dikaiosyne which*
- 2 *is in Jesus alone." The amendment failed. The original motion was adopted.*
- 3
- 4