

## Resolution Addressing Racial Injustice

**Whereas**, the Minneapolis Area Synod is committed to work together so that all people might live in just and healthy neighborhoods; and

**Whereas**, racial injustice and violence continue to thrive in our country and this Twin Cities area; and

**Whereas**, Scripture calls us, as part of our Christian response, to walk in solidarity with people of color, because standing in silence sanctions continued injustice and violence; and

**Whereas**, in the ELCA's social statement, "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture (1993)," this church says "When we speak of racism as though it were a matter of personal attitudes only, we underestimate it. We have only begun to realize the complexity of the sin, which spreads like an infection through the entire social system...[O]ur mission and ministry are in a society where white people have been favored and hold unequal power to implement their prejudices – socially, politically, and economically. What has been the case is *still* the case: skin color makes a difference and white people benefit from a privileged position," and

**Whereas**, 23 years after "Freed in Christ" was approved, these problems still persist, and our congregations remain intertwined in a network of unearned privilege; and

**Whereas**, congregations can be empowered by beginning the conversation about racism, racial injustice, and a commitment to racial equity, and

**Whereas**, each congregation has the opportunity to be a catalyst for addressing issues of racial injustice within the larger community by engaging in such a conversation, and

**Whereas**, this synod has resources available to all congregations through the Unite Table; therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the 2016 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly ask the Unite Table to provide resources to congregations regarding racial justice, and be it further

**Resolved**, that the bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod encourage congregations of the synod to have discussions toward creating racial justice statements that reflect their contexts, to be developed by the 2017 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly, and be it further

**Resolved**, that each congregation be strongly urged to find ways to advocate for racial justice, and be it finally

**Resolved**, that each congregation be asked to forward the name of a congregational racial justice liaison to the Unite Table of the synod by December 31, 2016.

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