

Resolution Addressing Racial Injustice

1
2
3
4 **Whereas**, the Minneapolis Area Synod is committed to work together so that all people might live
5 in just and healthy neighborhoods; and

6
7 **Whereas**, racial injustice and violence continue to thrive in our country and this Twin Cities area; and

8
9 **Whereas**, Scripture calls us, as part of our Christian response, to walk in solidarity with people of color,
10 because standing in silence sanctions continued injustice and violence; and

11
12 **Whereas**, in the ELCA's social statement, "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture (1993)," this
13 church says "When we speak of racism as though it were a matter of personal attitudes only, we
14 underestimate it. We have only begun to realize the complexity of the sin, which spreads like an infection
15 through the entire social system...[O]ur mission and ministry are in a society where white people have
16 been favored and hold unequal power to implement their prejudices – socially, politically, and
17 economically. What has been the case is *still* the case: skin color makes a difference and white people
18 benefit from a privileged position," and

19
20 **Whereas**, 23 years after "Freed in Christ" was approved, these problems still persist, and our
21 congregations remain intertwined in a network of unearned privilege; and

22
23 **Whereas**, congregations can be empowered by beginning the conversation about racism, racial injustice,
24 and a commitment to racial equity, and

25
26 **Whereas**, each congregation has the opportunity to be a catalyst for addressing issues of racial injustice
27 within the larger community by engaging in such a conversation, and

28
29 **Whereas**, this synod has resources available to all congregations through the Unite Table; therefore be it

30
31 **Resolved**, that the 2016 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly ask the Unite Table to provide resources to
32 congregations regarding racial justice, and be it further

33
34 **Resolved**, that the bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod encourage congregations of the synod to have
35 discussions toward creating racial justice statements that reflect their contexts, to be developed by the
36 2017 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly, and be it further

37
38 **Resolved**, that each congregation be strongly urged to find ways to advocate for racial justice, and be it
39 finally

40
41 **Resolved**, that each congregation be asked to forward the name of a congregational racial justice liaison
42 to the Unite Table of the synod by December 31, 2016.