

2010-1: Becoming a Multicultural Church

- WHEREAS, God has created the great diversity of humankind according to ethnicity, culture, language and race as a gift, and called the Church to the ministry of reconciliation;
- WHEREAS, the people from many nations who have come to the United States as immigrants and refugees have greatly enriched our communities and the Church;
- WHEREAS, the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church have fallen far short of our stated goal of “ten percent of the baptized membership of this Church be persons of color or whose primary language is other than English within 10 years”;
- WHEREAS, our congregations in the Saint Paul Area Synod have also fallen short of our shared goal of ten percent membership by persons of color or whose primary language is other than English;
- WHEREAS, most of our congregations have not called as lay or ordained leaders persons of color (or those whose primary language is other than English) and often do not reflect the ethnic, cultural, language, and racial diversity in our communities; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul Area Synod make increasing the number of pastoral and lay ministerial calls and membership of persons of color/whose primary language is other than English a priority for our mission and public witness and encourage synod congregations to share in this witness.
- RESOLVED, that the synod council appoint a task force (including persons of color) to develop and implement a public strategy for increasing the number of pastoral and lay ministerial calls in the Saint Paul Area Synod for persons of color and whose primary language is other than English, with realistic, measurable goals and outcomes; and
- RESOLVED, that the task force, as part of this strategy, develop and provide resources and workshop opportunities for congregations and leaders to address racism, multicultural diversity and cross-cultural hospitality in our congregations and communities; and
- RESOLVED, that our congregations be encouraged to work through our synod’s Local Mission Partners, ethnic congregations and multicultural congregations and hold opportunities for cross-cultural conversations and relationship building in the coming year; and
- RESOLVED, that the theme for the 2011 Saint Paul Area Synod assembly be “Becoming a Multicultural Church” and explore how to address our current shortcomings in becoming more multi-cultural; and how to welcome persons of color in our communities as a mission strategy for the Church.

Adopted by the Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly, May 21, 2010