

### **Resolution 2020-3: A Resolution Encouraging and Facilitating the Use of Anti-Racism Resources for Congregations**

1 WHEREAS Scripture asks of us, "what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love  
2 kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8); and

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4 WHEREAS the ELCA's social policy resolution, "Condemnation of White Supremacy and Racist  
5 Rhetoric," adopted by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly,<sup>1</sup> states: "We call all congregations  
6 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to engage in communal study of the structures  
7 and rhetoric that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy and to take to heart the  
8 teaching of Scriptures, so we may all be better equipped to speak boldly about the equal dignity  
9 of all persons in the eyes of God;" and

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11 WHEREAS in honor of Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Graham Hurd, Susie J. Jackson, DePayne  
12 Vontrese Middleton-Doctor, Ethel Lee Lance, Tywanza Kibwe Diop Sanders, Daniel Lee  
13 Simmons, Sr., Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Singleton Quarles Thompson and other  
14 victims of racially-based hate, members of All Saints Lutheran Church have engaged in  
15 communal study of the structures and rhetoric that empower and fuel racism and white  
16 supremacy;

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18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Saint Paul Area Synod of the ELCA equips and  
19 empowers all of its congregations to speak boldly about the systems that oppress and harm our  
20 communities of color; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Saint Paul Area Synod, in assembly, affirms the efforts of the  
23 Advocates for Racial Equity (ARE) work group as it carries out the Saint Paul Area Synod's anti-  
24 racism work and votes to make congregational councils aware of the resources and materials  
25 currently available from the Saint Paul Area Synod; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations be encouraged to use anti-racism training  
28 materials in a variety of ministry contexts including Sunday School, youth groups, Confirmation  
29 classes, and adult education. Training materials should include discussion of systemic racism and  
30 the Doctrine of Discovery; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations be encouraged to designate a contact person to  
33 interact with the Advocates for Racial Equity (ARE) work group so that they can support efforts  
34 that seek racial justice in our communities and across the Synod. These contacts would report  
35 progress on a local level and would foster a sharing of resources across the Synod; and

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<sup>1</sup> ELCA Social Policy Resolution, "Condemnation of White Supremacy and Racist Rhetoric", page 1. Adopted by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, CA19.04.18.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each congregation will report their efforts of anti-racism training  
38 to the synod through the annual Report for Rostered Minister Under Call from a Congregation.

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40 Submitted by: The Congregation Council of All Saints Lutheran Church, Eagan.

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42 *Because this resolution is consistent with the governing documents of the ELCA and addresses an*  
43 *issue of general concern to the Saint Paul Area Synod, the Reference and Counsel Committee*  
44 *recommends adoption of this resolution.*