



Resolution 03-01-21

SUBJECT: **To Give Thanks to God for Sustaining His Church Through
the Global Corona Virus Pandemic**

(Reference Overture 03-05-21 printed on page 164 of Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** The Global Corona Virus Pandemic has affected all areas of life, especially the life of the Church, including periods of shut-down, small groups of worshippers in services, the use of technology to have services online in various formats, etc.; and
- WHEREAS,** God has promised that nothing in all creation can separate us from His love in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:39), and that not even the gates of hell will prevail against His Church (Matthew 16:18); and
- WHEREAS,** Pastors, Church Workers, and Laity in the Mid-South District remained faithful in keeping their congregations connected to God's Word and Sacraments, while navigating safety guidelines; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in convention continue to encourage Pastors, Church Workers, and Laity to continue being faithful, encourage in-person worship, while also seeking opportunities to connect to the unchurched by sharing the love of Christ with them; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in convention rise in thanks and praise to God for sustaining His Church with the singing of hymn 644 (LSB), The Church's One Foundation.

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED



Resolution 03-02-21

SUBJECT:To Increase the Awareness of Human Trafficking to the Congregations of the Mid-South District and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

(Reference Overture 03-03-21 printed on page 161 of Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** Human Trafficking, including forced labor and sex trafficking, affects an estimated 24.9 million victims worldwide at any given time (US Dept of State)¹ and
- WHEREAS,** The Office of National Mission² and Lutherans For Life³ have addressed human trafficking (see footnoted resources); and
- WHEREAS,** Many people in LCMS congregations are unaware of the magnitude of this deplorable act against humanity; and
- WHEREAS,** God created all life and sent His Son Jesus to redeem all life, and He desires that all people come to the knowledge of Him and be saved (I Timothy 2:4), and He desires all to have abundant life in Him (John 10:10) and He has commanded us to love our neighbor as ourself (Matthew 19:19, Mark 12:31, Luke 10:29ff); therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in convention establish a Human Trafficking Task Force, as soon as possible, to study this inhumane activity with-in the boundaries of the Mid-South District, while working with Federal, State, and Local agencies, and to provide a report back to the next District Convention; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District Task Force on Human Trafficking make readily and widely available to the congregations of the Mid-South District, documents and resources to increase the awareness of Human Trafficking, to include directives to follow should Human Trafficking situations be observed; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in convention memorialize the Synod in Convention to update the resources provided; and to also direct the CTCR to produce a document addressing Human Trafficking; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in convention rise to pray that Almighty God would by His power bless and direct all law enforcement agencies in their fight against Human Trafficking and that He would through His Church and other relief organizations provide healing, support and ministry to the victims of Human Trafficking; and that He would bring an end to these deplorable acts.

¹ <https://www.state.gov/humantrafficking-about-human-trafficking/#profile> (accessed 6/18/21)

² 1) Human Trafficking; and 2) Identify, Understand and Intervene – Human Trafficking (lcms.org/social issues)

³ <https://lutheransforlife.org/event/for-life-live-human-trafficking-prevention-righteousness-works/> (accessed 6/18/21)

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED



Resolution 03-03A-21

SUBJECT: To Protect Christian Consciences

(Reference Overture 03-08-21 printed on page 169 of Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** Christians are called to “render to God what is God’s” (Luke 20:25) and to “obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29); and
- WHEREAS,** Christians are called to “obey their magistrates save when they are commanded to sin” (Ap XVI: 6-7); and
- WHEREAS,** The Holy Scriptures teach that man is not free to bind the conscience of another to a merely human commandment (Galatians 5:1-6; Romans 14); and
- WHEREAS,** There are increased attacks on Christian conscience; such attacks including, but not limited to, attacking Biblical authority regarding the sanctity of human life, human sexuality, Christian marriage, necessity of in-person Christian worship, and other issues of Christian conscience; and
- WHEREAS,** This is clearly evidenced not only anecdotally, but also concretely, for instance, by the recent Equality Act in the U.S. Congress (H.R. 5), negating application of The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (see Sec. 1107), and redefining sex beyond the Biblical teaching (see Sec. 1101); and
- WHEREAS,** This violation of conscience is a violation of one’s Christian freedom and Christian wisdom and may result in sin; and
- WHEREAS,** There is historic success in claiming religious exemption from violations of conscience on the basis of Religious Freedom in America (e.g. Philadelphia v. Catholic Social Services (2021) or Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod v. FCC (1988) or Meyer v. Nebraska, (1923)); therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the LCMS Mid-South District, congregations and their members abstain from every teaching of men that violates their Christian conscience which is bound to God’s Word alone in every sphere of life; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the LCMS Mid-South District, congregations, and their members be encouraged to speak and act in a Christian manner against such breaches of conscience in their daily vocations; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That the LCMS Mid-South District, give its full support and assistance of every kind to any congregation of the District or member of a District congregation in securing religious exemption from teachings and practices contrary to God’s Word.

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED



Resolution 03-04A-21

SUBJECT: TO REJECT RACISM AND ADVANCE THE GOSPEL

(Reference Overture(s) 03-01-21, 03-02-21, 03-04-21, 03-06-21, 03-07-21, Late Overture 03-09-21 printed on pages 157-158, 159-160, 162-163, 165-166, 167-168 of Convention Workbook)

WHEREAS, God has created all people and they are blood related going back to our mutual fathers, Adam and Noah, and all are subject to the stain of original sin, but now also have been equally redeemed by the blood of Christ in order to be reconciled to God and to each other; and

WHEREAS, God's Word says, "If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors." (James 2:8, 9); and

WHEREAS, Racism (the sinful notion that some races are inherently superior to others), misunderstanding, and strife are present in the world and experienced in congregations due to our sin; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) abhors racism, and in convention has passed resolutions repudiating all racism, (see 1992 Res. 3-03 and 2019 Res. 11-04A); and

WHEREAS, Critical Race Theory (CRT) has become a common, multifaceted, and controversial theory for discussion of contemporary race relations; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Mid-South District in convention reject the world view of CRT, as it is contrary to Scripture and counterproductive to true racial conversation and reconciliation, for it pursues equality of outcome ("equity") between racial groups, which requires treating individuals unequally based on race, and also reject all organizations, movements, petitions, and theological language that support that world view in a positive manner; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the LCMS Mid-South District reject any doctrine that teaches:

- One's race, ancestry, or nationality are inherently superior to the race, ancestry, or nationality of another.
- Any individual is inherently racist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously, because of his or her race, ancestry, or nationality; and be it further

- RESOLVED,*** That the circuits of the Mid-South District of the LCMS develop an objective mission and ministry action plan for outreach to diverse communities among us; and be it further
- RESOLVED,*** That the congregations of the LCMS Mid-South District be encouraged to conduct conversations on race and diversity, to strengthen unity within the congregation; and be it further
- RESOLVED,*** That the congregations of the LCMS Mid-South District be encouraged to engage members of their communities in these conversations, in light of Christ's Gospel; and be it further
- RESOLVED,*** We commend those within the LCMS Mid-South District who intentionally proclaim and work to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus to those who are different from themselves in the light of the Great Commission; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,*** That the Mid-South District send this resolution to the Synod as it gathers at its 2023 Convention to do similarly.

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED AS AMENDED