



**SUBJECT: To address Race, Diversity, and the development of and action for outreach.**

- WHEREAS,** Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ commanded His Church in Matthew 28:16-20 that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him and commanded His Church to go, make disciples of all nations; and
- WHEREAS,** *Christ our Savior, when asked, “Which commandment is the most important of all?”* [29](#)Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. [30](#)And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ [31](#)The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” *Mark 12; and*
- WHEREAS,** The Gospel is the only power of God for salvation for all ethnic groups, *Romans 1:16,17; and*
- WHEREAS,** God loves all ethnic groups in Christ, *John 3:16; and*
- WHEREAS,** We live in a world, nation, state and communities of neighbors of all ethnic groups, nationalities, races, and cultures; and
- WHEREAS,** The populated ethnicity of the Mid-South District congregations do not mirror the diversity of our states (Tennessee 77.79% White, 16.79% African-American, 5.15% Hispanic, 1.68% Asian; Arkansas 77.31% White; 15.455 African American, 7.16% Hispanic, and 1.43% Asian; and
- WHEREAS,** It is not the mission desire of the Mid-South District of the LCMS to portray the image as an exclusive segregated District based on skin color or cultural differences; and
- WHEREAS,** The subject and struggle of race, ethnicity and nationality remain a weary conundrum among the people of our nation, even the Church; and
- WHEREAS,** The Church of Jesus Christ has been called and commissioned by Her Savior and Lord to address all issues through Law and Gospel proclamation in loving God, neighbor and self; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** 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,** The congregations of the Mid-South District LCMS be encouraged to conduct conversations on race and diversity with members of its congregations and those deemed beneficial; and be it finally

***RESOLVED,***

We commend those within the Mid-South District LCMS 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.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN  
Elwood P. Cooper, Sr., Congregational Trustee  
Leo M. Winfrey, Congregational Trustee  
Gregory Moody, Congregational Treasurer**