



Resolution 02-05A-25

SUBJECT: To Address Theological Errors and Call Repentance for The Church's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

(Reference Overture(s) 02-02-25 and 02-03-25 printed on page 177-180 of Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** God commands, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8); and
- WHEREAS,** Our Lord and Savior proclaims, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4); and
- WHEREAS,** The apostle Peter declares, “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29); and
- WHEREAS,** The Scriptures admonish Christians to “consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:24-25); and
- WHEREAS,** One’s Christian liberty should not be determined by someone else’s conscience (1 Corinthians 10:29); and
- WHEREAS,** Regarding the Sacrament of the Altar, the Large Catechism teaches “some allow themselves to be hindered and held up by the excuse that we have taught that no one should approach the Sacrament except those who feel hunger and thirst, which drive them to it. Some pretend that it is a matter of liberty and not necessary. They pretend it is enough to believe without it. For the most part, they go so far astray that they become quite brutish, and finally despise both the Sacrament and the God’s Word.” (Large Catechism V.41 [McCain]); and
- WHEREAS,** Responses to the COVID-19 pandemic by congregations, pastors, Synod leadership, and affiliated educational institutions included the cancellation of communal, in-person worship services, the erroneous administration of the Sacrament the Altar virtually or online, the urging of experimental and controversially-sourced vaccinations, and the submission to the governmental mandates; and
- WHEREAS,** These responses inculcated in God’s flock and the world at-large the ideas that communal, in-person worship is nonessential, that worship of God should give way to earthly fear, and that public opinion or government demand can supersede the command of God; and
- WHEREAS,** These responses undoubtedly led to a burdening of Christian consciences and false accusations of not loving one’s neighbor as oneself; and



- WHEREAS,** The alarming extent of closures were documented in the December 2020 issue of *Reporter*, stating, “Only 15% of LCMS congregations held in-person church services on Easter Sunday”; and
- WHEREAS,** The great societal distress over the COVID-19 pandemic ought to have compelled the Church to keep her doors open; and
- WHEREAS,** The examples of Daniel, Nehemiah, and the Ninevites (Daniel 9:3ff; Nehemiah 1:4ff; Jonah 3:6ff) show corporate repentance to be God-pleasing and salutary; therefore be it
- Resolved,** That we commend the desires of faithful pastors to care for their flocks in a time of pandemic, granting charity due to the nature of the situation confronting the Church because “the Blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us of all sins” (1 John 1:7b); and be it further
- Resolved,** That in such future crises, the Church with her pastors would neither prohibit nor suspend the opportunity for communal, in-person worship, but allow the sheep who desire the comfort and strength of the Gospel to accompany their pastors; and be it further
- Resolved,** That those who are hindered from receiving the Sacrament of the Altar be encouraged to reject online or virtual Communion and only accept in-person administration of the Sacrament and content themselves with the power of the Word of God and the exercise of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; and be it finally
- Resolved,** That the 2025 Mid-South District convention submit to the 2026 LCMS Synod convention an overture with similar resolutions, also asking Synod to acknowledge the theological and ecclesial errors committed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic , to call those who authorized or promoted such errors to repentance, and to publicly encourage all Synod congregations, pastors, Synod leadership and affiliated educational institutions to reflect soberly on these failures and to reaffirm, with renewed conviction, their fidelity to Christ, His Word, and the public ministry of Word and Sacrament, especially in times of crisis.

Pastor Willie Grills

Keith D’Atrio