

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,¹ states: “We call all congregations of the
6 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to engage in communal study of the structures and rhetoric that
7 empower and fuel racism and white supremacy and to take to heart the teaching of Scriptures, so we may
8 all be better equipped to speak boldly about the equal dignity of all persons in the eyes of God;” and
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10 WHEREAS in honor of Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Graham Hurd, Susie J. Jackson, DePayne
11 Vontrese Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Kibwe Diop Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons Sr., Sharonda
12 Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Singleton Quarles Thompson and other victims of racially-based hate,
13 members of All Saints Lutheran Church have engaged in communal study of the structures and rhetoric
14 that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy;
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16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Saint Paul Area Synod of the ELCA equips and
17 empowers all of its congregations to speak boldly about the systems that oppress and harm our
18 communities of color; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Saint Paul Area Synod, in assembly, affirms the efforts of the
21 Advocates for Racial Equity (ARE) work group as it informs and supports the Saint Paul Area Synod's
22 anti-racism work and votes to make congregational councils aware of the resources and materials
23 currently available from the Saint Paul Area Synod; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations be encouraged to use anti-racism training materials in
26 a variety of ministry contexts including Sunday School, youth groups, Confirmation classes, and adult
27 education, and the training of rapid response groups and volunteer street chaplains. Training materials
28 should include discussion of systemic racism and the Doctrine of Discovery; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations be encouraged to designate a contact person to interact
31 with the Advocates for Racial Equity (ARE) work group so that they can support efforts that seek racial
32 justice in our communities and across the Synod. These contacts would report progress on a local level
33 and would foster a sharing of resources across the Synod; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each congregation will report their efforts of anti-racism training to
36 the synod through the annual Report for Rostered Minister Under Call from a Congregation.
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38 Submitted by: The Congregation Council of All Saints Lutheran Church, Eagan.
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40 *Because this resolution is consistent with the governing documents of the ELCA and addresses an issue of*
41 *general concern to the Saint Paul Area Synod, the Reference and Counsel Committee recommends*
42 *adoption of this resolution.*

¹ ELCA Social Policy Resolution, “Condemnation of White Supremacy and Racist Rhetoric”, page 1. Adopted by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, CA19.04.18.