

2-03: To Love Our Neighbor by Rebuking False Doctrine

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has all authority in heaven and on earth, commands us to make disciples by baptizing in the Triune name and by teaching all that He has commanded, (Matt 28:18-20); and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Confessions, because they are a right exposition of God's Word stand as the doctrinal standard for our congregations, church body, and its institutions, confess that "the sole rule and standard according to which all dogmas together with [all] teachers should be estimated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and of the New Testament alone," (FC Ep 1); and

WHEREAS, In our times ideologies by various names have arisen which reject both the authority and truth of God's Word, claiming as authoritative standard for judgment each person's individual self-determination, as shaped by categories including class, race, sex, perceived gender identity, sexual preference, economic condition, and/or the intersection of any perceived grievances; and

WHEREAS, After the fall into sin humankind has done injustice and suffered evils that perpetuate our poor miserable condition, which evokes in the Christian the compassionate, loving desire for prudent works of mercy as ordered by God's Word, and the commitment to give bold, clear and steadfast witness to Jesus as the One who is our true peace and who alone breaks down dividing walls of hostility, reconciling us to God and each other through His blood shed on the cross (Eph 2:13-22); and

WHEREAS, In our times the aforementioned ideologies demand belief in and commitment to "Diversity," "Equity," and "Inclusion" as teaching of what constitutes righteousness, prescribing social policies as the means by which the human condition will be made right; and

WHEREAS, Belief in false doctrine and participation in its practices are fatal to Christian faith and discipleship, and yet many of our children and institutions may be led into error through ignorance of these false doctrines, or lack of preparation in how best to love our suffering neighbors as Christians (as the Lord says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6a)); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Indiana District and all its members repent for failing to love our neighbors and rebuke false teaching (2 Tim 4:1-7, Eph 4:14-15, Gal 6:1); and be it further

Resolved, That the Indiana District in convention renew its confession of the authority of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as well as renew its confession that "the sole rule and standard according to which all dogmas together with [all] teachers should be estimated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and of the New Testament alone," (FC Ep 1) and be it further resolved that); and be it further

Resolved, That the Indiana District identify as false doctrine and condemn any ideology, doctrine, teaching, or movement which claims the authority of an individual's self-determination over above the Lord God speaking in His Word (Deut 12:8, Prov 12:15, Jer 23:28), by whatever diversity of name(s) these ideologies may clearly be known; and be it further resolved that); and be it further

Resolved, That the Indiana District reject any organization, trainings, movement, or ethic, by whatever diversity of name(s) they may clearly be known, which promise righteousness through social action, perpetuates discontent through grievance, reduces the human person's essence to such categories like those listed above, or contradicts the Word and thereby the unity Christians have in it (2 Car 6:14-16, FC Ep 1, Eph 4:1-16, Gal 1:6-10); and be it further

Resolved, That the Indiana District call on its members to love their neighbors as Christians, rejecting policy and language which come from worldly presuppositions, but instead discovering ways to show mercy to their neighbors within the framework of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions for what constitutes righteousness, just action for the love of neighbor, and unity through repentant faith in Christ Jesus (Matthew 12:30, John 14:6); and be it further

Resolved, That the Indiana District exhort the schools of our church body (which are under direct assault from these false teachings and social actions) to remain steadfast in believing, teaching, and confessing the authority of God in His Word, and not to use "commitment to and belief in diversity, equity, and inclusion" as a rule or standard to evaluate those serving in them; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Indiana District submit this as an overture to the next LCMS convention.

Kendallville Circuit Forum (Circuit #6)
Rev. Philip Rittner, Circuit Visitor
Rev. Keaton Christiansen, Circuit Secretary

2-04: To Improve the Communications between the District and Constituent State Governments

WHEREAS, It is undeniable that there is increasing hostility in our nation directed toward Christians and the Church, with governors and county and city officials shutting down worship services or severely restricting them during the COVID-19 pandemic, with politicians claiming that the First Amendment provides only for freedom of worship and not the free exercise of religion, with businesses being sued as their owners seek to operate according to their deeply held beliefs, with the House of Representatives having passed The Equality Act, which would undermine protections restored under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, et cetera; and

WHEREAS, Supreme Court justices have warned in recent court decisions of the danger to religious institutions and people. For example, Justice Alito warned in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that “The decision [to permit same-sex marriages] will also have other important consequences. It will be used to vilify Americans who are unwilling to assent to the new orthodoxy,” “that those who cling to old beliefs will be able to whisper their thoughts in the recesses of their homes, but if they repeat those views in public, they will risk being labeled as bigots and treated as such by governments, employers, and schools.” Similarly, Chief Justice Roberts in the same opinion ominously reported that “the Solicitor General candidly acknowledged that the tax exemptions of some religious institutions would be in question if they opposed” the new orthodoxy; and