

BRRICK Report to the 2025 Synod Assembly

The year 2024 ended on a difficult note with the re-election of the 47th president of the United States and his relentless acts of injustice against the American people, adding renewed clarity to the mission of BRRICK (Building Racial Reconciliation in Christ's Kingdom). These shameless acts of injustice include the removal of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives from the workplace of the federal government. The violent declaration of war against refugees and asylum seekers which is a violation of the fourth and fifth amendments to the Constitution of the United States. The Executive Order to Dismantle the Department of Education is an act of injustice against our children which has an even more profound effect on those Howard Thurman called "The Disinherited" in our society who depend on Title 1 funding that supports young people in low-income schools and students with disabilities.

These and other acts of injustice by the current administration are an affront to the Gospel of Christ Jesus. Jesus, who was a Palestinian refugee, was sent into the world to set the burdened free and to preach good news to the poor and marginalized (Luke 4:18-19). Martin Luther continued the fight against injustice in 16th century Germany when he nailed his 95 objections to the injustice of the Catholic church to the door of the church at Wittenberg. The BRRICK team continues the fight against injustice in 21st century with a "New Reformation" against fear, racism, sexism, heterosexism, ableism and anything that seeks to divide the body of Christ in the Southeast Michigan Synod.

No matter who is in the white house God is still "Sovereign of the universe!" Therefore, God has trusted the church with "the message of reconciliation (II Corinthians 5:19)." To that end the BRRICK team by God's grace continues to offer anti-racism workshops as a resource to congregations. In addition, we are working with other justice centered leaders of the synod to help plan the third annual Justice Summit of the Southeast Michigan Synod, which is happening October 4th at Hope Lutheran Church Farmington Hills, the theme is "A Place at the Table."

We need your voice for these and other Justice initiatives and perhaps to help create new justice ministries in our synod "for such a time as this (Esther 4:14)" when God is calling us to stand up for justice so that everyone truly has a place at the table. To join the BRRICK team please contact our Communications Team lead by Mrs. Wendy Gomez - email gomezwendy@att.net and Pr. Brandon Hunt - email stpaulpastorelca@gmail.com.

"For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery (Galatians 5:1 NRSV)."

Respectfully Submitted by

Pr. Michael Johnson (he, him, his)

Chair of BRRICK