

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: AN ANTI-RACIST CHURCH

Whereas Christ’s command to love our neighbor must extend beyond sentiment. To be silent in the face of the legacy of racial injustice and oppression in the United States is to be complicit with the *status quo* in our congregations, within ourselves, and in our polity.

Whereas the church, in its ignorance, has unintentionally but chronically repelled people of color from its pews and pulpits by failing to listen to and follow the leadership of Black, Indigenous, Asian, Pacific, and people of color.

Whereas anti-racism work (much like faith) invites a regular, enduring, and vigilant lifetime commitment, deeply rooted in the liberating nature of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Southeast Michigan Synod directs the Bishop, Synod Staff, and Synod Council to collaborate with the synod’s anti-racism team prior to December 31st, 2026, to implement a regular rhythm of anti-racism trainings and programs to begin in 2027.

Be it further resolved that the Southeast Michigan Synod directs the Bishop, Synod Staff, and Synod Council to regularly collaborate with the synod’s anti-racism team to review synod policies and processes (including, but not limited to call process, compensation guidelines, and annual reporting requirements) so that recommendations can be made regarding anti-racism best practices.

Be it further resolved that the Southeast Michigan Synod directs the Bishop, Synod Staff, and Synod Council to collaborate annually with the synod’s anti-racism team to ensure proposed budgets include adequate funding to sustain anti-racism trainings and programs.

Submitted by,

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The committee recommends that this resolution be adopted by the assembly.