

BRRICK Report to the 2026 Synod Assembly

For 34 years, The BRRICK Team (Building Racial Reconciliation in Christ Kingdom) has been fighting institutional racism, sexism and homophobia in the Southeast Michigan Synod. Throughout those years of fighting systemic injustice the embodied ministry of Jesus Christ has provided a clear example of what justice looks like through the lens of love in action. Jesus did more than just speak truth to power. He challenged unjust systems by touching the untouchable, healing on the sabbath and eating with outcasts.

As followers of Jesus, we have been trusted with the ministry of reconciliation (II Corinthians 5:19). Jesus did the heavy lifting of reconciling humanity to God by defeating death through the power of God's Spirit on the day of the resurrection and now we have been called to the lifelong moral commitment of loving your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18b). The good news is that we are not alone! Now that the tomb is empty through the power of Holy Spirit we know that Jesus (our Emmanuel) is in the battle against systemic evil with us.

Beloved, I think this means that though the moment may be difficult God is with us in this reconciling work of anti-racism and we are in it together. And together with God's help we can defeat any evil that would try to divide us. Therefore, The BRRICK Team is asking for your support to pass a resolution at this year's synod assembly called: For Such a Time As This: An Anti-Racist Church. This resolution calls for a more intentional partnership between the Bishop, Synod Staff, Synod Council and the synod's anti-racism team, BRRICK to ensure proposed budgets include adequate funding to sustain anti-racism trainings and programs.

God's call to reconciliation requires an active commitment to discipleship. The gospel writer Luke tells us that Jesus said that following him calls for bearing the cross "daily" (Luke 9:23) meaning that a life of faith is not an event but a life style. Therefore, justice work is not just one workshop or book we read but tearing down walls is a life time walk with Jesus.

One of the programs that BRRICK hopes to develop with funding created by this resolution is a semi-annual Civil Rights Pilgrimage which would involve traveling with a group of Jesus' disciples from our synod on a life changing journey through states like Memphis, Alabama and Gorgia to remember the history of the Civil Rights era.

We need your voice for these and other Justice initiatives. Remember, united we are strong but divided we fall. To join the BRRICK team Please contact our Communications team led by Mrs. Wendy Gomez – gomezwendy@att.net and Pr. Brandon Hunt – stpaulpastorelca@gmail.com.

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

Respectfully Submitted by

Pr. Michael Johnson (he, him, his)

Chair of BRRICK