

Anti-Racism Education Emphasis

WHEREAS, the church is the Body of Christ, and when one member of the Body hurts, we all hurt; and

WHEREAS “Racism—a mix of power, privilege, and prejudice—is sin, a violation of God’s intention for humanity. The resulting racial, ethnic, or cultural barriers deny the truth that all people are God’s creatures and, therefore, persons of dignity. Racism fractures and fragments both church and society,”* and

WHEREAS, systemic and institutionalized racism is an acute illness infecting North American culture; and

WHEREAS, a PEW Research Study published in July, 2015*** shows the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as the whitest religious group in the United States, and

WHEREAS, ELCA rostered leaders are “strongly encouraged” to receive anti-Racism training,** in the same vein as they are to receive boundaries training;

therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA establish the same requirement for anti-racism training for rostered leaders, that we currently expect of boundaries training in our synod,

and be it further RESOLVED, that the SEPA Synod in assembly state that this training be conducted by the Synod’s Anti-Racism Team utilizing the “Today’s Dream, Tomorrow’s Reality” curriculum of the Women of the ELCA as its foundation, and that the full training be taken biennially,

and be it further RESOLVED, that the Anti-Racism Team will continue its own ongoing education in Anti-Racism and be aware of updates in curricula, in order to keep the training current.

Submitted by the SEPA Synod Anti-Racism Team

Susie Folks, co-chair
Linda Manson, co-chair
Kathleen Afflerbach
Janet Bischoff
Chase Ferguson
Fern Hagedorn
Gwendolyn King
Jane Marston
Jay Mitchell
Karen Paulus
Chris Weidner

*"Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity & Culture" ELCA social statement (1993)

**ASSEMBLY ACTION CA16.05.22 Resolution on Racial Justice (2016)

***Pew study info found in the chart at this link: https://www.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/FT_15.07.23_religionDiversityIndex-1.png?w=640

WHEREAS, systemic and institutionalized racism is an acute illness infecting North American culture; and

WHEREAS, the church is the body of Christ, and when one member of the body hurts, we all hurt; and

WHEREAS, currently rostered leaders are strongly encouraged to receive appropriate training including boundaries training; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage all rostered leaders to receive anti-racism training; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage every synod to develop or maintain resources for anti-racism training for rostered leaders and congregations at least every two years.