

## Resolution 2

### Resolution to Encourage Participation in *Now is the Time Study* to Further the Work of Racial Justice

**WHEREAS** God loves us and in that love, Jesus commands us in the Gospel to love our neighbors as ourselves, and

**WHEREAS** the “ELCA apologizes to people of African descent for its historical complicity in slavery and its enduring legacy of racism in the United States and globally” (*Explanation of the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent*, p. 2), and

**WHEREAS** people of African descent continue to be harmed by racism, and

**WHEREAS** in our baptism we promise to "care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace," and

**WHEREAS** the ELCA has committed to working to end racism and has created resources for individuals and congregations to learn about the history of people of African descent and the ongoing effects of racism such as *Now is the Time Study* of the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent (<https://elca.org/Resources/Racial-Justice>), and

**WHEREAS** the ELCA provides resources such as the *Now is the Time Study*, which is appropriate for 9th grade students and above as free downloads, and the ECSW has created additional free resources (<https://www.ecsw.org/nowisthetime-leader>) to further aid people in leading the study,

**WHEREAS** the ECSW Racial Equity Team has conducted the *Now is the Time* multiple times, and will support individuals who plan on leading the study;

#### **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

that all congregations be encouraged to study the problem of racism and invite 9th grade students and above to engage in the process as well, using resources such as *Now is the Time Study*, and if possible offer online or other sessions of the study;

#### **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**

that congregations continue to support the 2022 Resolution to Work for Racial Equity, and

#### **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**

that the synod invites a report of action on this resolution by Synod Assembly 2026.

Endorsed by —

Shirley Paulson, Ascension, Green Bay  
[spaulson1949@gmail.com](mailto:spaulson1949@gmail.com)  
920.301.8125

The Rev. Barb Girod, St. Mark's, Neenah  
Paul Jerks, Bethel, Green Bay  
Randy Johnson, St. John, Ashwaubenon  
Gloria Jaeger, Peace, Green Bay  
Marilynn Quirk, Ascension, Green Bay  
Cathy Sell, Christ Community, Green Bay  
The Rev. Jen Fite, Good Shepherd, Howard  
The Rev. Josh Fite, St. John, Ashwaubenon  
Deb Martin, All Saints, Oshkosh

---

**Resolutions Committee Recommendation:**

Submit to Synod Assembly for consideration and possible action.

**Resolutions Committee Rationale:**

The proposed resolution merits the attention of the Assembly.

---

**Notes or Resources**

[The Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent](#)  
[Background of the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent](#)  
[2022 Resolution to Work for Racial Equity](#)