

## **2020 Resolution on the Study of Reparations in the Oregon Synod**

**Whereas** Christians are called to proclaim good news to the oppressed, liberty to the captives, release to the prisoners and to announce the year of the Lord's favor (Isaiah 6:1-3; Luke 4:16-20), and

**Whereas** in the twenty-first article of the Heidelberg Disputation, Martin Luther wrote that a "theologian of glory calls evil good and good evil. A theologian of the cross calls the things what it is," and

**Whereas** at the 2016 churchwide assembly, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America expressed its desire for collective repentance by repudiating the doctrine of discovery and acknowledging this church's complicity in the evils of colonialism in the Americas, which continue to harm tribal governments and individual tribal members, and

**Whereas** at the 2019 churchwide assembly, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America apologized to people of African descent for its historical complicity in slavery and its enduring legacy of racism in the United States and globally, and committed to engaging in anti-racism and racial justice work, and work toward economic justice — including the study of reparations, and

**Whereas** the experience and legacy of centuries of physical and cultural genocide, broken treaties and covenants, land theft and plundered resources, enslavement and uncompensated labor, segregation and discrimination continue to limit the life chances and opportunities for indigenous people and people of African descent, and

**Whereas** through the process of reparations, we confess the sin, acknowledge the harm and begin the journey towards repair and reconciliation through ecclesial, moral, economic, political and educational structural amends, therefore be it

**Resolved** that the Bishop of the Oregon Synod will initiate the formation of a taskforce of local leaders and organizing partners on reparations in the Oregon Synod. This task force will prepare a resolution naming the history of Oregon Lutherans and the genealogy of our lands and collectives, the needs of impacted communities throughout the state and actions that will lead to deeper repair and reconciliation. The Bishop will make every effort to assure the task force has an equitable representation of the peoples mentioned on the task force to assure European descent is not the dominant voice on the task force. And be it further

**Resolved** that this taskforce will prepare a second resolution with concrete action plans to be presented at Oregon Synod Assembly in 2021. And be it further

**Resolved** that the people of the Oregon Synod in the interim space between now and Assembly 2021 continue to engage the various learning and organizing opportunities on the journey towards reparations. These opportunities include Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice's Sacred Circles; Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and the Common Table of Oregon's Reckoning with Racism Cohort; Leaven Land & Housing Coalition cohorts in Washington, Multnomah and Clackamas Counties; EcoFaith Recovery's cohorts; or connecting with organizers to further existing work happening in our Synod.

Presented by:

Rev. Matta Ghaly - The Flame, Rev. Sara Gross Samuelson, (co-leader/pastor/organizer, Storyline Community), Rev. Ron Werner (Jr, pastor/organizer, Together Lab), Rev. Erika Spaet (pastor/organizer, Storydwelling), Rev. Robyn Hartwig (pastor/organizer EcoFaith Recovery), Rev. Solveig Nilsen-Goodin (Interim Pastor, Salt and Light Lutheran Church/Leaven Community), LaVeta Gilmore Jones (Co-director, Leaven Community), Gary Schulstad (Council President, Creator Lutheran Church), Nicole Poole (St. Paul Lutheran Church) Shirley Peterson (Creator Lutheran Church), Mary Peterson (Bridge Pastor, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran, Beaverton), Debi Stromberg (Creator Lutheran Church & SE Portland Youth Collective), Karen Sykes (Our Savior's Lutheran Church), Diane Dahlin (Council Vice President, Our Savior's Lutheran Church), Rev. Michelle Manicke (Pastor, Zoar Lutheran Church, Canby), Jan Mallory (Creator Lutheran Church), Rev. David Eppelsheimer (Pastor, Community of ChristChurch, Hillsboro), Joann Noll (Bethel Lutheran Church), Valerie Wicklund (Creator Lutheran Church), Nancy Carlisle (St. Mark Lutheran Church), Deacon Bonnie Beadles-Bohling (Central Lutheran, Portland), Chris Zambito (Creator Lutheran Church), Rev. Dr. Amanda Zentz-Alo (Pastor, Central Lutheran Church), Rev. Mark Knutson (Pastor, Augustana Lutheran Church, Portland), Jeanne Anderson, (St. Mark's Lutheran), Rev. Lorin Darst (Pastor, Macksburg Lutheran Church).