

Sanctity of Life resolutions passed at AD 2023 LCMS Convention

All of the resources noted here may be accessed at

https://www.lcms.org/convention/national? gl=1*g3zcl*d* ga*MTM2Njk5Mzc2NC4xNjg5ODA4Mjk2* ga Z0184DBP2L*MTY5MTUxMTcxNS4yMC4wLjE2OTE1MTE3MTUuMC4wLjA..

Floor Committee 1 – National Witness

Resolution 1-04A: *To Continue to Address Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues*. In response to 2019 Resolution 11-03A, *To Encourage Synod to Develop Resources to Aid Congregations and Schools regarding Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues*, the LCMS Office of National Mission established an *ad hoc* task force to study the issue and develop initiatives and recommendations to guide the work of Synod in this area. This resolution calls on Synod to direct this task force to continue their work, which had been interrupted by the COVID pandemic, and consider including field research, all with the goal of providing congregations with the means to raise awareness of the intense pressure to affirm viewpoints which are contrary to Scripture, to respond by studying Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and encourage those under persecution for their faithful proclamation of God’s truth on human sexuality and marriage. This speaks squarely to the question of what it means to be human and is a critically important sanctity of life issue. The full text may be found in *Today’s Business*, Issue 3, pages 370-372, with a few additional changes in the *Sessions 3 and 4 Convention Minutes*, page 3.

Resolution 1-06A: *To Direct Districts and Council of Presidents to Provide Strategic Plan for Addressing Wellness of Church Workers*; and Resolution 1-07: *To Address Mental Health among Pastors and Other Professional Church Workers*. These resolutions call for the support of the physical and mental well-being of our Pastors and professional church workers, ongoing issues intensified by the COVID pandemic. The full text of Resolution 1-06A may be found in *Today’s Business*, Issue 3, page 373, and that of Resolution 1-07 in *Today’s Business*, Issue 1, pages 89-90.

Floor Committee 3 – Mercy

Resolution 3-01: *To Encourage and Support More Fervent Teaching, Proclamation, and Efforts to Promote Culture of Life among God’s People*, thanking God for the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, and calling on LCMS Life Ministry to support congregations in their development of life-affirming outreach, providing encouragement, training materials and grant funding. Additionally, the resolution calls on congregations to be involved with life ministry in its various capacities, including education, advocacy and human care efforts; on congregations, districts and RSOs to work to provide care for those suffering from the effects of abortion, as well as life-affirming alternatives to abortion. Finally, the resolution calls on Pastors and congregations to proclaim the sanctity of life and demonstrate this in word and deed. The full text may be found in *Today’s Business*, Issue 1, page 96; and the additional “Resolved” clause expressing thanks for the *Roe v Wade* overturn in the *Sessions 1 and 2 Convention Minutes*, page 8.

Resolution 3-02A: *To Increase Awareness among Synod Congregations of Human Trafficking*, calling for education of church workers and lay people on this major sanctity of life issue. The resolution further calls on the Synod Office of National Mission to research and share stories of congregations, schools and RSOs who are having an impact in dealing with this in their communities, and to pray that God would bless the work of law enforcement agencies, and through His Church provide healing, support and ministry to victims, and bring an end to all human trafficking. The full text of this resolution may be found in *Today's Business*, Issue 3, page 301.

Resolution 3-03A: *To Continue the Synod's Efforts to Address Mental Health and Mental Illness*, calling on the LCMS Office of National Mission Health Ministry to continue the work begun following the 2019 Synodical Convention to identify, develop and disseminate resources to equip church workers, congregations, schools and congregation members to promote mental health and better help those affected by mental health problems or illness. The full text of this resolution may be found in *Today's Business*, Issue 2B, pages 302-304, and an amendment calling on Synod to discourage bias or stigma against those seeking help for mental health issues may be found in the *Sessions 5 and 6 Convention Minutes*, page 9.

Resolution 3-04A: *To Commend and Give Thanks for Synod Work regarding Disaster Response*. Over the past four years, the LCMS Disaster Response has faithfully responded to numerous disasters in the United States and around the world. This resolution gives thanks for this wonderful sanctity of life-affirming work, calls on LCMS Disaster Response to continue with her vital mercy outreach, and all to support this effort through prayer, participating in Lutheran Early Response Team training, and providing volunteer assistance and financial resources. The full text of this resolution may be found in *Today's Business*, Issue 2B, page 304.

Floor Committee 10 – Ecclesiastical Supervision

Resolution 10-05A: *To Speak to Spiritual Care of Victims of Sexual Misconduct by Individual Members of the Synod*. Recognizing that the sin of sexual misconduct is an ongoing serious concern, particularly when allegedly committed by a rostered worker of the Synod, this resolution calls on the LCMS Council of Presidents, together with legal counsel and a group of women and men well-versed in the issue (potentially including victims), to evaluate, review and develop advisory procedures and guidelines to address the spiritual needs of both the victims and the workers. The full text of this sanctity of life-affirming resolution may be found in *Today's Business*, Issue 3, pages 282-283.

Floor Committee 11 – Church and Culture

Resolution 11-02A: *To Reject All Forms of Racism and Affirm Our Witness to All People*. This resolution reminds us that all people are created in the image of God and are one human race, that the intrinsic value of each individual rests in having been redeemed by Jesus' blood, and that we are to show sacrificial love (*agape*, in the quoted James 2:8 verse) to each other without partiality. The resolution makes note of the contemporary movements, methodologies

and ideologies which divide people by race, including Black Lives Matter, Diversity/Equity/Inclusion, Critical Race Theory, Nazism, White Supremacy and White Nationalism. Finally, the resolution voices that the LCMS rejects these or any doctrine or ideology that teaches the superiority of one race, ancestry or nationality over another (in other words, that dehumanizes others), or that individuals are inherently racist because of their race; affirms that Christ died for all and that we should all repent of our failures on this and address the issue of racism using existing Synodical resources, and the collaborative development of new materials along with an examination by the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) of the issue, that in one voice we proclaim God's love for all people. The full text of this resolution may be found in *Today's Business*, Issue 3, pages 384-385, (a minor amendment may be found in the *Sessions 7 and 8 Convention Minutes*, page 2) and the closely related Resolution 11-03A, *To Love and Disciple Peoples of All Ethnicities, Languages and Skin Colors*, in *Today's Business*, Issue 3, pages 385-386.

Resolution 11-04: *To Address Abortion and Use of Fetal Tissue in Vaccines*. Noting how the way elective abortions are being carried out have dramatically changed over the past ~40 years, and that tissue from aborted babies and human fetal cell lines from past abortions are used in the development of some medications and vaccines, the resolution calls for the CTCR to study this topic and its ramifications, in collaboration with LCMS Life Ministry and the Synodical seminaries and universities. The full text of the resolution may be found in *Today's Business*, Issue 1, pages 206-207.

Resolution 11-06A: *To Oppose Mandatory Registration of Women into the Draft*. This resolution notes that husbands are called to sacrificially love their wives (*agape* in the referenced Ephesians 5 text) by being willing, when necessary, to lay down their lives for them, and that natural law and human history testify that men, not women, are required from time to time to enter combat to defend their families and country. Furthermore, the resolution notes that some women may choose of their own volition to serve in the military, but that current legislation actually requires women to register for the military draft. The resolution goes on to oppose the compulsory service of women in the military and to support conscientious objection on religious grounds on the part of women, should a national military draft include them. The full text of the resolution may be found in *Today's Business*, Issue 3, pages 386-387.

Floor Committee 12 – Schools, Family, Young Adults, and Youth

Resolution 12-02A: *To Confess Authority God Gave to Fathers and Mothers*. In the face of attacks and significant pressure from federal, and some state and local governments to make children wards of the state, including assertions of authority over children in ways that are contrary to God's Word, this resolution confesses the divinely-instituted primary authority and responsibility of parents in the care and upbringing of children, in the setting of a God-pleasing marriage. This resolution dovetails nicely with our ED Lifeline AD 2023 *Year of the Family* emphasis. The full text may be found in *Today's Business*, Issue 3, pages 388-389. The text of the closely related Resolution 12-05A: *To Encourage Family Devotions, Lutheran Fathers, and Young Men*, may be found in *Today's Business*, Issue 3, page 392.