

## **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 initiate the formation of a task force addressing reparations, consisting of local leaders and organizing partners within the Oregon Synod; the task force will convene, study, and prepare a preliminary report to include the naming of 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; and that the task force will submit a preliminary report to the Synod Council and to the Synod Assembly in 2021; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the task force will receive input from the Synod Council and Synod Assembly in 2021, as well as input from congregations, interested individuals, and partners, and thereafter will prepare a resolution with specific recommended actions to be presented at the Oregon Synod Assembly in 2022; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the people of the Oregon Synod during the interim time between now and the Synod Assembly in 2022 continue to engage in the various learning and organizing opportunities on the journey towards reparations. These opportunities include the following: the 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; as well as connecting with organizers to further existing work taking place in the Oregon Synod.

Presenter: 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).