

**RESOLUTION C:
TO EMPOWER AND EDUCATE BELIEVERS ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

- 1 *Whereas*, the power to uplift the marginalized was demonstrated in Acts 8 with the conversation with and
2 subsequent baptism of the Ethiopian eunuch, a believer of color excluded from full participation
3 under the traditional law; and
4 *Whereas*, 1 John 3:18 teaches us”; and “Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and
5 action
6 *Whereas*, we are called to testify to the presence of God’s gifted people throughout history, many of
7 whom have been/are overlooked and dismissed, yet remain and persevere as witnesses to gospel
8 love; and
9 *Whereas*, oftentimes the unique perspective of Women, particularly Black and Brown Women, Women
10 of Color, members of the LGBTQIA+ community and people seeking sanctuary and refugee
11 status, bring a fuller depth and breadth of perspective as a whole church in Jesus; and
12 *Whereas*, the creation of safe, respectful spaces allows open communication for followers of Christ to
13 have a voice for their trauma when empathy is lacking and violence is perpetuated against
14 marginalized people; and
15 *Whereas*, honoring Christ’s call to embrace the marginalized in increasingly authentic, respectful, and
16 responsive manners calls us to resist undercutting one another and validate all persons, as lifted
17 in Christ’s prayer from John 17 “protect them in your name...so that they may be one, as we are
18 one”; and
19 *Whereas*, our community of faith becomes stronger and further aligned with the teachings of the gospel
20 when we acknowledge diversity and intersectionality within the body of Christ and this is vital
21 for believers in this Metropolitan New York Synod who are particularly gifted for modeling the
22 ultimate value of all people that the Lord graciously gives; and
23 *Whereas*, the Voting Members of the 2019 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly voted to "engage or
24 accept a qualified facilitator from outside this synod to lead us through the Bridgebuilder
25 process" only to have it postponed due to public health closures of 2020; be it
26 **RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod convene discussions, including but not limited**
27 **to coordinated conference-wide discussion groups, to address the intersection of issues of**
28 **racial justice and faith by the spring of 2022; and be it**
29 **RESOLVED, that the Anti-Racism Committee, Evangelism Task Force, and any other appropriate**
30 **committees of the Metropolitan New York Synod commit to use their available resources**
31 **to work together to incorporate these issues into a cohesive message of inclusion and**
32 **acceptance by the 2022 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly.**

Submitted by:

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The Rev. Analyse Triolo, Pastor, Holy Trinity, Bellerose, Dean, Northeastern Queens Conference

The Rev. Karen Kuttler, Rostered Minister

The Rev. Jeanne R. Warfield, past Dean, Western Queens Conference

The Rev. Leticia Alanis, Pastor/Mission Developer, All Saints/Todos los Santos, Woodhaven.

Committee on Reference and Counsel

**MEMORIAL A:
TO EMPOWER AND EDUCATE BELIEVERS ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

- 1 *Whereas*, the power to uplift the marginalized was demonstrated in Acts 8 with the conversation with and
2 subsequent baptism of the Ethiopian eunuch, a believer of color excluded from full participation
3 under the traditional law; and
4 *Whereas*, 1 John 3:18 teaches us “Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and
5 action”;
6 *Whereas*, we are called to testify to the presence of God’s gifted people throughout history, many of
7 whom have been/are overlooked and dismissed, yet remain and persevere as witnesses to gospel
8 love;
9 *Whereas*, oftentimes the unique perspective of Women, particularly Black and Brown Women, Women
10 of Color, members of the LGBTQIA+ community and people seeking sanctuary and refugee
11 status, bring a fuller depth and breadth of perspective as a whole church in Jesus;
12 *Whereas*, the creation of safe, respectful spaces allows open communication for followers of Christ to
13 have a voice for their trauma when empathy is lacking and violence is perpetuated against
14 marginalized people;
15 *Whereas*, honoring Christ’s call to embrace the marginalized in increasingly authentic, respectful, and
16 responsive manners calls us to resist undercutting one another and validate all persons, as lifted
17 in Christ’s prayer from John 17 “protect them in your name...so that they may be one, as we are
18 one”;
19 *Whereas*, a community of faith becomes stronger and further aligned with the teachings of the gospel
20 when we acknowledge diversity and intersectionality within the body of Christ;
21 *Whereas*, this diversity and inclusion is vital for believers to model the ultimate value of all people that
22 the Lord so graciously gives; therefore, be it
23 **RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod memorialize the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of**
24 **the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to commit to create discussion programs,**
25 **including but not limited to coordinated church-wide discussion groups, to address the**
26 **intersection of issues of racial justice and faith; and be it further**
27 **RESOLVED, the life and ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be empowered to**
28 **use resources to work together to incorporate these issues into a cohesive message of**
29 **inclusion and acceptance.**

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