**Resolution 1-03**

**To speak against trends of Radical Ideologies and Racisim in the United States of America**

Whereas, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) confesses the Holy Scriptures as the inspired and inerrant Word of God, and the Lutheran Confessions as a true exposition of that Word; and

Whereas, Scripture teaches that all people are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26–27), are equally fallen in sin (Romans 3:23), and are redeemed by the atoning work of Jesus Christ, who desires all to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4; John 3:16); and

Whereas, the Gospel is the power of God for salvation to all who believe, without distinction of race, ethnicity, or nationality (Romans 1:16; Galatians 3:28); and

Whereas, Any ideology, which seeks to conflate national identity or political allegiance with the Christian faith, risks undermining the distinction between the Kingdom of God and the kingdoms of this world, as taught by Christ (John 18:36; Matthew 22:21) and confessed in the Augsburg Confession (Article XVI); and

Whereas, racism, the belief in the superiority or inferiority of any race, contradicts the biblical truth that all are one in Christ (Colossians 3:11) and violates the Fifth Commandment by fostering hatred and division; and

Whereas, the Lutheran Confessions affirm that the Church’s mission is to proclaim the Gospel and administer the Sacraments, not to establish temporal power or promote division among people (Augsburg Confession, Articles V, VII, XXVIII); and

Whereas, the LCMS has historically rejected ideologies that elevate human distinctions above the unity of the Body of Christ, as expressed in resolutions such as the 1995 Convention Resolution 2-04, which condemned racism as contrary to God’s Word; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the District encourages its congregations to teach and preach the biblical doctrine of the two kingdoms, emphasizing that the Church’s mission is to proclaim Christ crucified for all people, regardless of race or nationality; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the District calls upon its pastors, teachers, and members to reject any ideology that elevates national or racial identity above the unity of the Body of Christ, fostering instead love, reconciliation, and the proclamation of the Gospel;

*Resolved*, that the District commends its congregations to pray for unity in the Church and society, that all may know the love of Christ, who reconciles all people to God and to one another (2 Corinthians 5:18–20); and be it finally

*Resolved*, that Montana District in Convention rise and sing the Doxology in thanks to God for our unity in Christ.

Rev. Jakob Berger, Chairman, Floor Committee 1

Rev. Dr. Gerald Paul, Secretary, Floor Committee 1