

SECTION THREE
OVERTURES
RESOLUTIONS



OVERTURES

1 **OVERTURE 18-01**

2
3 **SUBJECT: To Humbly Confess the Six Twenty-Four Hour Day Creation as Being in**
4 **Accordance with Holy Scripture**

5
6 **Whereas**, all Scripture is "God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3.16NIV) and "truth" (John 17.17KJV) to
7 guide us in the way of righteousness and faith during our pilgrimage here on earth, and

8
9 **Whereas**, we are called as children of God to confess the faith as opportunity presents itself
10 as Peter encourages, "always being ready to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a
11 reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3.15ESV), and

12
13 **Whereas**, many within and without Christian churches have adopted evolution based on an
14 old earth chronology over the last 159 years to explain the origin of the universe, and

15
16 **Whereas**, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has faithfully confessed the historicity of
17 Genesis 1-3, which describe God creating the heavens and the earth in six days (six twenty-
18 four hour days is the most natural reading of the text as also indicated in Exodus 31.17), the
19 creation of Adam and Eve, and the fall into sin, and

20
21 **Whereas**, the temptation is always around to harmonize the Bible and science, by for
22 example making the six days of creation six indeterminate periods of time as theistic evolution
23 does, therefore be it

24
25 **Resolved**, that the North Wisconsin District humbly confess the six twenty-four hour day
26 creation as being in accordance with Holy Scripture, and be further

27
28 **Resolved**, that the NWD confess and reaffirm the official position of The Lutheran Church—
29 Missouri Synod regarding creation, "We teach that God has created heaven and earth, and
30 that in the manner and in the space of time recorded in the Holy Scriptures, especially Genesis
31 1 and 2, namely, by His almighty creative word, and in six days. We reject every doctrine
32 which denies or limits the work of creation taught in Scripture. In our days it is denied or
33 limited by those who assert, ostensibly in deference to science, that the world came into
34 existence through a process of evolution; that is, that it has, in immense periods of time,
35 developed more or less of itself. Since no man was present when it pleased God to create the
36 world, we must look for a reliable account of creation to God's own record, found in God's own
37 book, the Bible. We accept God's own record with full confidence and confess with Luther's
38 Catechism: "I believe that God has made me and all creatures." (A Brief Statement of the
39 Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod, 1932) and be it finally

40
41 **Resolved**, that the NWD District Convention send this resolution as an overture to the 2019
42 Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

43
44 **This resolution was adopted on January 07/ 2018, at Circuit 3 annual forum held at**
45 **St. Paul Lutheran Church, Cumberland, 54829**

1 **OVERTURE 18-03**

2

3 **SUBJECT: TO Decry Racism in Church and Society**

4 **WHEREAS,** All humanity shares a common origin in Adam and Eve (Genesis 1 and 2); and

5

6 **WHEREAS,** "God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does
7 what is right is acceptable to him" (Acts 10:34, 35, ESV); and

8

9 **WHEREAS,** God has united all believers in Christ through Holy Baptism (Acts 10:34, 35, ESV);
10 and

11

12 **WHEREAS,** The CTCR document *Racism and the Church* (February 1994) states: "We in The
13 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have before us a wonderful opportunity to commit ourselves
14 to strive toward making racism a thing of the past, and to demonstrate before a watching
15 world how people of all cultures and groups can become one in Christ, who has made of many
16 one body for the edification of all"; and

17

18 **WHEREAS,** Racism has no basis in science, Scripture, or the Confessions; and

19

20 **WHEREAS,** We continue to see racism among those who call themselves Christian and in
21 society-at-large, including in the "white nationalist" movement; therefore be it

22

23 **Resolved,** The delegates to the Convention of the North Wisconsin District of the Lutheran
24 Church-Missouri Synod, meeting in Wausau, Wisconsin, June 3-4, 2018, decry every form of
25 racism, including white supremacy under the white nationalist movement, as antithetical to the
26 Gospel of Jesus Christ; and be it further

27

28 **Resolved,** That we work toward racial reconciliation and equality within the Church and
29 within society-at-large; and be it further

30

31 **Resolved,** That we submit overture "To Decry Racism in Church and Society" to the National
32 Convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, meeting in Tampa, Florida, July 20-25,
33 2019 and be it finally

34

35 **Resolved,** That we pray both for those who advocate racist ideologies and those who are
36 thereby deceived, that they may recognize their errors, repent, and know the reconciling
37 forgiveness of the Lord Jesus Christ, who by Baptism gathers His people into one from all
38 nations.

39

40 **Submitted by: St. John's Lutheran Church, Algoma, WI**

1 **OVERTURE 18-05**

2
3 **SUBJECT: To Address the Student Debt of District Professional Church Workers**

4
5 **WHEREAS**, numerous public reports have raised concerns regarding the amount of student
6 indebtedness and the ability of graduates to repay their student loans; and,

7
8 **WHEREAS**, Professional Church Workers are normally required to earn degrees at the college
9 level and beyond in order to serve in their positions and, in so doing, may incur large amounts
10 of student debt; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, Professional Church Workers generally do not receive salaries commensurate with
13 those working in the public sector who have a comparable level of education, impeding their
14 ability to repay student indebtedness; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, members of the Board of Directors of the North Wisconsin District have received
17 reports concerning Professional Church Workers in this District facing severe difficulties in
18 repaying their student debt; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, student indebtedness can impede the effectiveness of a Professional Church
21 Worker in the course of ministry; and

22
23 **WHEREAS**, the magnitude of this problem in the North Wisconsin District has yet to be
24 thoroughly identified and fully addressed; therefore be it

25
26 **Resolved**, that the North Wisconsin District Board of Directors continue its research into the
27 issue of student indebtedness on the part of Professional Church Workers in the District and
28 potential ways to alleviate the problem; and be it further

29
30 **Resolved**, that the Board of Directors report back to the District via regular District
31 communications and at the 2021 District Convention, provide recommendations for action as
32 they become available; and be it further

33
34 **Resolved**, that the Professional Church Workers of the North Wisconsin District and the
35 congregations and/or entities that they serve be encouraged to engage in open and loving
36 conversation regarding these issues; and be it finally

37
38 **Resolved**, that the congregations and/or entities of the North Wisconsin District be further
39 encouraged to become aware of and utilize whatever resources may be available in order to
40 alleviate this problem.

41
42 **Submitted by: The Board of Directors of the North Wisconsin District**

1 **OVERTURE 18-07**

2
3 **SUBJECT: To Memorialize Concordia Seminary, Concordia Theological Seminary**
4 **and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod to Revisit, Reconsider,**
5 **Reevaluate, Reverse and Rescind a Criterion for Entrance into the**
6 **Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program**
7

8 **WHEREAS**, both Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort
9 Wayne utilize the document entitled, "Admission Criteria for the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP)
10 Program" to determine the acceptance or the denial of an applicant into the program; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the fourth criterion listed in this document states that: "If married, the applicant
13 should be devoted to his wife and family and be supported in his vocational pursuit by his
14 spouse, who is also an active member of an LCMS congregation. (I Timothy 3:4-5, "He must
15 manage his own family well.');" and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the Holy Scriptures refer to the responsibilities of the Office of the Holy Ministry,
18 which include: Feeding Christ's sheep (St. John 21:15-17), preaching repentance and
19 forgiveness in Jesus' Name to all nations (St. Luke 24:46-47), administering the Sacrament of
20 Holy Communion (1 Corinthians 11:23-25), Keeping a close watch on themselves and on the
21 teaching (1 Timothy 4:14-16), being trustworthy (1 Corinthians 4:1-2), recognizing that their
22 sufficiency is from God (2 Corinthians 3:4-5), being reconciled to God and carrying out the
23 ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-21), preaching the Word; being ready in season
24 and out of season; reproving, rebuking, and exhorting, with complete patience and teaching;
25 always being sober-minded, enduring suffering, doing the work of an evangelist, fulfilling your
26 ministry (2 Timothy 4:1-5), being above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded,
27 self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle,
28 not quarrelsome; not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all
29 dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his
30 own household, how will he care for God's Church? He must not be a recent convert, or he
31 may become puffed up with conceit and fall into condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he
32 must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the
33 devil (1 Timothy 3:1-7), equipping the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the
34 body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-12 NKJV). Taking heed to yourselves and to all the flock,
35 among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the Church of God which
36 He purchased with His Own blood (Acts 20:28 NKJV), and shepherding the flock of God that
37 is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have
38 you, not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being
39 examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading
40 crown of glory (1 Peter 5:2-4) (Lutheran Service Book Agenda, pages 163-164); and
41

42 **WHEREAS**, the denomination of the spouse of those entering the Office of the Holy Ministry
43 is not mentioned in the responsibilities of the Office of the Holy Ministry, as are contained in
44 Holy Scripture; and
45

46 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Martin Luther was a proponent of marriage for priests, nuns and monks, as
47 he stated in "The Babylonian Captivity" that "the laws of men cannot annul the commands of
48 God, and since God has ordained marriage, the union of a priest and his wife is a true and
49 indissoluble union." Luther also declared that "marriage should be free to priests, though the

50 whole canon law go to pieces." ("Here I Stand. A Life of Martin Luther", Roland Bainton, page
51 200); and

52
53 **WHEREAS**, in a sermon that he preached on January 16th, 1519, based on St. John 2:1-11,
54 the account of the Wedding at Cana, Dr. Martin Luther said: "as was the case of Adam and
55 Eve, a person should marry the person that God has chosen to be the spouse." (Martin Luther, "A
56 Sermon on the Estate of Marriage", LW, 44:8); and

57
58 **WHEREAS**, the denomination of the spouse of the priests, and nuns, and monks is not
59 mentioned by Dr. Luther; and

60
61 **WHEREAS**, in his sermon on "The Estate of Marriage, 1522," Dr. Luther speaks against the
62 impediments of marriage, set forth by the Pope and canon law of his day, as he says, "take
63 as your spouse whomever you please, whether it be godparent, godchild, or the daughter or
64 sister of a sponsor, or whoever it may be"... "If you are not prevented from marrying a girl by
65 the fact that she is a Christian, then do not let yourself be prevented by the fact that you
66 baptized her, taught her, or acted as her sponsor; and

67
68 **WHEREAS**, in the same sermon, Luther goes beyond advocating marriage of Christian to
69 Christian, as he speaks against the Papal impediment of marriage because of unbelief: "The
70 fifth impediment is unbelief, that is, I may not marry a Turk, a Jew, or a heretic. I marvel that
71 the blasphemous tyrants are not in their hearts ashamed to place themselves in such direct
72 contradiction to the clear text of Paul in 1 Corinthians 7(:12-13), where he says, 'If a heathen
73 wife or husband consents to live with a Christian spouse, the Christian should not get a
74 divorce.' And St. Peter, in 1 Peter 3(:1), says that Christian wives should believe so well that
75 they thereby convert their non-Christian husbands; as did Monica, the mother of St.
76 Augustine. Know therefore that marriage is an outward bodily thing, like any other worldly
77 undertaking. Just as I may eat, drink, sleep, walk, ride with, buy from, speak to, and deal
78 with a heathen, Jew, Turk, or heretic, so I may also marry and continue in wedlock with him.
79 Pay no attention to the precepts of those fools who forbid it. You will find plenty of Christians,
80 and indeed the greater part of them, who are worse in their secret unbelief than any Jew,
81 heathen, Turk, or heretic. A heathen is just as much a man or woman – God's good creation
82 – as St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. Lucy, not to speak of a slack and spurious Christian." (Martin
83 Luther, "The Estate of Marriage, 1522", translated by Walther I. Brandt); and

84
85 **WHEREAS**, the Christian denomination, or the absence of the Christian denomination, of the
86 spouse of priests, or nuns, or monks is not mentioned by Dr. Luther; and

87
88 **WHEREAS**, the criterion, set forth in the "Admission Criteria for the Specific Ministry Pastor
89 Program" that states that the spouse of the applicant must be an "active member of an LCMS
90 congregation," thus, a Missouri Synod Lutheran, is placing a restriction upon any applicant to
91 the Specific Ministry Pastor Program that neither the Holy Scriptures nor Dr. Martin Luther
92 place; and

93
94 **WHEREAS**, such a restriction places the focus on the spouse, rather than the one, who is
95 being called into the Holy Ministry; and

96
97 **WHEREAS**, such a restriction is a hindrance of the work of the Holy Spirit, if the work of the
98 Holy Spirit is determined by where the spouse of the applicant worships God; and

99 **WHEREAS**, such a restriction is in opposition with unity within the One, Holy
100 catholic/Christian and Apostolic Church, as it serves to build walls instead of bridges; and
101

102 **WHEREAS**, such a restriction could turn even one qualified applicant away from serving in
103 the Holy Ministry and that, in these times, when more and more congregations of the LCMS
104 are looking for and are calling seminary graduates and second-career individuals, whose
105 numbers are continuing to decrease; and
106

107 **WHEREAS**, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod cannot afford to lose even one qualified
108 person to serve in the Office of the Holy Ministry; and
109

110 **WHEREAS**, such a restriction can be viewed as being limiting, and exclusive and even
111 discriminatory; therefore be it
112

113 **Resolved**, that the North Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in
114 convention, encourage and urge Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and Concordia Theological
115 Seminary, Fort Wayne and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, itself, to revisit, and
116 reconsider, and reevaluate, and reverse and rescind the fourth criterion listed in "The
117 Admission Criteria for the Specific Ministry Pastor Program" of the Lutheran Church-Missouri
118 Synod.
119

120 **Submitted by: Redeemer Lutheran Church, Amery, Wisconsin**

RESOLUTIONS

1 **RESOLUTION 18-02** (*Ov. 18-01*)

2
3 **SUBJECT: To Humbly Confess the Six Twenty-Four Hour Day Creation as Being in**
4 **Accordance with Holy Scripture**

5
6 **Whereas**, all Scripture is “God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3.16 NIV) and “truth” (John 17.17 KJV)
7 to guide us in the way of righteousness and faith during our pilgrimage here on earth, and

8
9 **Whereas**, we are called as children of God to confess the faith as opportunity presents itself
10 as Peter encourages, “always being ready to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a
11 reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3.15 ESV), and

12
13 **Whereas**, many within and without Christian churches have adopted evolution based on an
14 old earth chronology over the last 159 years to explain the origin of the universe, and

15
16 **Whereas**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has faithfully confessed the historicity of
17 Genesis 1-3, which describe God creating the heavens and the earth in six days (six twenty-
18 four hour days is the most natural reading of the text as also indicated in Exodus 31.17), the
19 creation of Adam and Eve, and the fall into sin, and

20
21 **Whereas**, the temptation exists to harmonize the Bible and evolutionary theory, by for
22 example making the six days of creation six indeterminate periods of time as theistic evolution
23 does, therefore be it

24
25 **Resolved**, that the North Wisconsin District humbly confess the six twenty-four hour day
26 creation as being in accordance with Holy Scripture, and be further

27
28 **Resolved**, that the North Wisconsin District confess and reaffirm the official position of The
29 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod regarding creation, “We teach that God has created heaven
30 and earth, and that in the manner and in the space of time recorded in the Holy Scriptures,
31 especially Genesis 1 and 2, namely, by His almighty creative word, and in six days. We reject
32 every doctrine which denies or limits the work of creation taught in Scripture. In our days it is
33 denied or limited by those who assert, ostensibly in deference to science, that the world came
34 into existence through a process of evolution; that is, that it has, in immense periods of time,
35 developed more or less of itself. Since no man was present when it pleased God to create the
36 world, we must look for a reliable account of creation to God’s own record, found in God’s own
37 book, the Bible. We accept God’s own record with full confidence and confess with Luther’s
38 Catechism: ‘I believe that God has made me and all creatures.’” (A Brief Statement of the
39 Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod, 1932) and be it finally

40
41 This resolution was adopted on January 07/ 2018, at Circuit 3 annual forum held at St. Paul
42 Lutheran Church, Cumberland, 54829

43
44 **Resolved**, that the North Wisconsin District in convention submits this resolution as an
45 overture to the 2019 Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

46
47 **Resolutions Committee – David Karolus, Chairman**

1 **RESOLUTION 18-04** (*Ov. 18-03*)

2
3 **SUBJECT: To Decry Racism in Church and Society**

4
5 **WHEREAS**, All humanity shares a common origin in Adam and Eve (Genesis 1 and 2); and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, "God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does
8 what is right is acceptable to him" (Acts 10:34, 35, ESV); and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, God has united all believers in Christ through Holy Baptism; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations document *Racism and the*
13 *Church* (February 1994) states: "We in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have before us a
14 wonderful opportunity to commit ourselves to strive toward making racism a thing of the past,
15 and to demonstrate before a watching world how people of all cultures and groups can
16 become one in Christ, who has made of many one body for the edification of all"; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, Racism has no basis in Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, or science; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, We continue to see racism among those who call themselves Christian, and in
21 society-at-large, including in the "white nationalist" movement; therefore be it

22
23 **Resolved**, The delegates to the Convention of the North Wisconsin District of The Lutheran
24 Church-Missouri Synod, meeting in Wausau, Wisconsin, June 3-4, 2018, decry every form of
25 racism, including white supremacy under the white nationalist movement, as antithetical to the
26 Gospel of Jesus Christ; and be it further

27
28 **Resolved**, That we encourage racial reconciliation and equality within the Church and within
29 society-at-large; and be it further

30
31 **Resolved**, That we submit this overture, "To Decry Racism in Church and Society," to the
32 National Convention of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, meeting in Tampa, Florida, July
33 20-25, 2019, and be it finally

34
35 **Resolved**, That we pray for those who advocate racist ideologies and for those who are
36 thereby deceived, that they may recognize their errors, repent, and know the reconciling
37 forgiveness of the Lord Jesus Christ, who by Baptism gathers His people into one from all
38 nations.

39
40 Submitted by: St. John's Lutheran Church, Algoma, WI

41
42 **Resolutions Committee – David Karolus, Chairman**

1 **RESOLUTION 18-06** (*Ov. 18-05*)

2
3 **SUBJECT: To Address the Student Debt of District Professional Church Workers**

4
5 **WHEREAS**, numerous public reports have raised concerns regarding the amount of student
6 indebtedness and the ability of graduates to repay their student loans; and,

7
8 **WHEREAS**, Professional Church Workers are normally required to earn degrees at the college
9 level and beyond in order to serve in their positions and, in so doing, may incur large amounts
10 of student debt; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, Professional Church Workers generally do not receive salaries commensurate with
13 those working in the public sector who have a comparable level of education, impeding their
14 ability to repay student indebtedness; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, members of the Board of Directors of the North Wisconsin District have received
17 reports concerning Professional Church Workers in this District facing severe difficulties in
18 repaying their student debt; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, student indebtedness can impede the effectiveness of a Professional Church
21 Worker in the course of ministry; and

22
23 **WHEREAS**, the magnitude of this problem in the North Wisconsin District has yet to be
24 thoroughly identified and fully addressed; therefore be it

25
26 **Resolved**, that the North Wisconsin District Board of Directors continue its research into the
27 issue of student indebtedness on the part of Professional Church Workers in the District and
28 potential ways to alleviate the problem; and be it further

29
30 **Resolved**, that the Board of Directors report back to the District via regular District
31 communications and at the 2021 District Convention, and provide recommendations for action
32 as they become available; and be it further

33
34 **Resolved**, that the Professional Church Workers of the North Wisconsin District and the
35 congregations and/or entities that they serve be encouraged to engage in open and loving
36 conversation regarding these issues; and be it finally

37
38 **Resolved**, that the congregations and/or entities of the North Wisconsin District be further
39 encouraged to become aware of and utilize whatever resources may be available in order to
40 alleviate this problem.

41
42 **Submitted by:** The Board of Directors of the North Wisconsin District

43
44 The Floor Committee recommends this overture as written.

45
46 **Resolutions Committee – David Karolus, Chairman**

1 **RESOLUTION 18-08** (*Ov. 18-07*)

2

3 **SUBJECT: To Decline Certain Overtures**

4

5 ***Resolved,*** that the following Overture be respectfully declined for the reason indicated:

6

7 **18-07 - To Memorialize Concordia Seminary, Concordia Theological Seminary and The**
8 **Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to Revisit, Reconsider, Reevaluate, Reverse and Rescind**
9 **a Criterion for Entrance into the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program** – The floor
10 committee declines this resolution because it contradicts the policy that deals with all vicarage,
11 diaconal internships, and pastoral and diaconal calls from seminaries (as established by the
12 Council of Presidents and the two seminaries).

13

14 **Resolutions Committee – David Karolus, Chairman**