

Summary of the CHURCH AND CULTURE resolutions

resolution 4-01 to address the sexual integrity of ministers and the care for victims of abuse (Saturday, between 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.)

That the New Jersey District in convention call on one another to build and maintain relationships and practices of integrity and fidelity to God, and to others, so that we are to be people “above reproach” and to discipline those guilty of any sexual abuse in obedience to Matthew 18:6-17 as well as to cooperate with civil authorities in the prosecution of those cases.

Specially, that we pray for those who have been harmed as a result of sexual abuse and urge our churches to offer support, compassion, and biblical counseling to them and their families and to develop and implement sound policies and procedures to protect all our members and staff from sexual abuse and harassment.

resolution 4-02 to denounce ethno-nationalism and supremacy as a belief that is anti-Gospel (Saturday, between 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.)

Central to the doctrine of creation is the truth of the equal value of all human beings and that every human life is precious in His sight; consequently, racism is contrary to God’s Word and a sin against Him and His will and that is why we are encouraged, in this resolution, to denounce every form of racism as antithetical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Moreover, that we repent of our own sins of racism, with its sinful orientation to show partiality among the peoples of the earth and that we deny membership to those individuals who espouse racist theology; and that we, most earnestly, pray for those who advocate and embrace racist theology so that they may see their error in light of the Scriptures, repent of their hatreds, and come to know that He is a God who shows no partiality.

resolution 4-03 to engage in ministry to transgendered persons (Saturday, between 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.)

That the New Jersey District in convention affirm God’s good design that gender identity is determined by biological sex and not by one’s self-perception – a perception which is often influenced by fallen human nature in ways contrary to God’s design and that we commend the CTCR (Commission on Theology and Church Relations) for their current work and request that they produce a full study on practical ministry to transgendered persons.

Moreover, that we extend love and compassion to those who whose sexual self-understanding is shaped by a distressing conflict between their biological sex and their gender identity by welcoming them to our churches and to condemn all acts of abuse or bullying committed against them.

Finally, that our love for God and His will compel us to declare the whole counsel of God concerning His design for us as male and female persons created in His image; to that end, that the New Jersey District provide resources and training on this topic to help church workers and congregations minister to those struggling with sexual sins and that Synod, in its 2019 convention, request CTCR to study this issue in more depth and provide Gospel-centered resources on how to engage in ministry to transgendered persons.