



Report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee

Always
being made
New.

25 YEARS TOGETHER IN CHRIST

I. Amendments to the Recommended Proposed Social Statement

The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries, and

II. Amendments to the Recommended Proposed Implementing Resolutions

Introduction

The purpose of the *Ad Hoc* Committee is to facilitate the work of the assembly through discussion and evaluation of amendments to proposed social statements and related proposed implementing resolutions. As part of its work, the committee is responsible for:

- Ensuring clarity of each amendment submitted by the assembly deadline;
- Assisting those who have submitted amendments with language or wording;
- Assisting, if possible, in forming consensus with authors of motions of like substance or interest;
- Proposing recommendations to the assembly relative to each amendment for use in deliberations.

The deadline for submitting amendments to the proposed social statement and related implementing resolutions was 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 13, 2013. Ten amendments were addressed by the *Ad Hoc* Committee to facilitate more effective action by the assembly. We express our gratitude to all who worked on behalf of the church to respond to the text of the proposed social statement and related implementing resolutions.

For purposes of consistency and clarity, the *Ad Hoc* Committee combined and edited one or more of the amendments in consultation with the originating author.

Throughout its deliberations, the committee was intentional about recommending adoption of amendments that strengthened the intent and coherence of the existing text.

Respectfully submitted:

Bishop Julian Gordy (*Conference of Bishops*)
Rev. Dr. Marcus Kunz (*Office of Bishop*)
Rev. Yvonne Marshall (*Church Council*)
Mr. Jack Munday (*Co-chair*)
Ms. Cynthia Osborne (*Co-chair*)
Ms. Pamela Pritt (*Church Council*)
Rev. Dr. Roger Willer (*Staff Liaison*)

Report I
Amendments to the Recommended Proposed Social Statement
The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries

A. The *Ad Hoc* Committee recommends the following amendments be adopted for the proposed social statement:

Amendment A1

Submitted by: Mr. Eric H. Crump [Lower Susquehanna Synod]

Proposed Amendment: Revise the statement at line 126 as follows:

At Line 126 Substitute the rewritten paragraph:

Martin Luther calls Confession a “mark of the church” one of seven indicators that illustrate the fundamental character and practices of the church. He also describes Compassionate Suffering as another kind of external mark whereby the Holy Spirit sanctifies the church in relation to the neighbor. These “marks of the church” serve throughout this statement as critical indicators of genuinely Christian response to today’s criminal justice system and to the people involved in it.

For this paragraph:

Confession is one “mark of the church;” Martin Luther included it among seven indicators that illustrate the fundamental character and practices of the church: Confession, the Word of God, Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, Worship, Ministry, and Compassionate Suffering. Some of these “marks of the church” will serve throughout this statement as critical indicators of genuinely Christian response to today’s criminal justice system and to the people involved in it.

Rationale: As currently written the proposed statement seems to suggest that in Luther’s writing “Compassionate Suffering” refers to the 7th external mark of the church, the marks related to the first table (first three commandments) of the 10 Commandments. Rather, in Luther’s writings the external mark of Compassionate Suffering, which the social statement correctly expands upon, is located in relation to the second table of the 10 Commandments (last 7 commandments). That is, it is located in relation to the commandments concerning relations to the neighbor. The revised text clarifies and corrects.

Amendment A2

Submitted by: Mr. William E. Riley [New Jersey Synod]

Proposed Amendment: Revise the statement at line 977 as follows:

Line 977 ~~Black people~~ African Americans have been far more likely than ~~White people~~ Caucasians to be arrested for drug offenses.⁶⁴

Rationale: The original language in the proposed statement employed “Black” and “White” in line 977 following the common academic protocol of using the same wording as that in the text being cited. (See Footnote 64.) However, the *Ad Hoc* committee recommends making this change in order to be consistent with the terms in the rest of the proposed statement that follow ELCA style protocol.

Amendment A3

Submitted by: Mr. Brenten T. Seaks [Western North Dakota Synod] and
Pr. Jill L. Steichen [Northwestern Minnesota Synod]

Proposed Amendment to clarify at line 989

Those costs include the resources required to implement the policy as well as the costs to those who are harmed by the policy by being branded criminals—and placed under state control— simply because they have used an unlawful substance.

Rationale: The original paragraph included wording that could be perceived as confusing, and as an editorial comment on national drug policy. The removal of the latter part of the sentence eliminates these ambiguities.

Report II
Amendments to the Recommended Proposed Implementing Resolutions

B. The *Ad Hoc* Committee recommends the following amendments to the proposed implementing resolutions be adopted:

Amendment B1

Submitted by: Ms. Heather S. Kulp [Metropolitan Chicago Synod] and
Pr. James A. Wilson [East-Central Synod of Wisconsin]

Proposed Amendment: Change proposed Implementing Resolution 1 (Line 1) as indicated:

Lines 1–3 To call upon members of this church through steadfast prayer, discernment, Christian education, ministry efforts, and public action to share the Gospel of God’s love as they hear the cries, offer hospitality, accompany, and advocate on behalf of those whose lives are caught up in or committed in service to the criminal justice system;

Rationale: These revisions make explicit the role of education and that “sharing the Gospel of God’s love” should permeate the implementation of all actions related to this social statement.

Amendment B2

Submitted by: Ms. Heather S. Kulp [Metropolitan Chicago Synod]

Proposed Amendment: Change proposed Implementing Resolution 4 (Line 10)-

Line 10 To encourage congregations to ~~consider becoming~~ become intentional sites of ministry and action for the

Rationale: The removal of the term “consider,” change of grammar, and insertion of term “intentional” clarify the call for congregational ministry.

Amendment B3

Submitted by: Ms. Christina M. Galardi [South Carolina Synod]

Proposed Amendment: Change proposed Implementing Resolution 6 (Line 17 and 18) as indicated:

Line 17 conferences, synods, seminaries, social ministry organizations

Line 18 to which members, pastors, seminarians or other professionals

Rationale: The two added words make explicit the intent of the resolution to foster training and resourcing of future as well as current leaders regarding criminal justice issues.

C. The *Ad Hoc* Committee does not recommend the following amendment to the proposed implementing resolutions be adopted:

Amendment C1

Submitted by: Mr. Paul E. Lockwood [Northern Illinois Synod]

Proposed Amendment: Change proposed Implementing Resolution 2 (Line 6) by removing the semicolon and adding the following phrase at the end of the sentence so that it reads:

Line 6 . . . and recommendations set forth in this social statement; understanding that in the case of sentencing, for example, incarceration must be only one alternative, not the only alternative

Author’s Rationale: A key aspect to this social statement is that mass incarceration is not the answer, but at the same time, incarceration is sometimes appropriate. Let’s emphasize that here—a part of the statement that may receive more focus/attention from ELCA members and media.