
LUTHERAN CHURCH–CANADA

RESOLUTIONS



RESOLUTION 96.1.07a

To Reaffirm Lutheran Church–Canada’s Position On Capital Punishment

(Ref.: Overture 1.04)

WHEREAS Lutheran Church–Canada has a clear statement on capital punishment in the August 1980 Commission on Theology and Church Relations Study Document “Report on Capital Punishment,” which itself confirmed the position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adopted at the 1967 Convention, stating “that capital punishment is in accord with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions;” and

WHEREAS “Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation, 1991 Translation” clearly states our position, (question 53)

53. Does anyone have authority to take another person’s life?
Yes, lawful government as God’s servant, may execute criminals and fight just wars.

Rom. 13:4 He is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer; therefore be it

RESOLVED that Lutheran Church–Canada reaffirm its position that capital punishment is permitted but not mandated by God’s Word.

Adopted, Session 7