

## **HCR 3020 regarding the Concurrent Resolution Declaring the Kingship of Jesus**

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

I write in opposition to this unnecessary and inappropriate piece of legislation.

No doubt the sponsors of this bill believe in this tenet of their faith, but it has no place in the halls of the State legislature.

I am an ordained minister in The United Methodist Church, and affirm the supreme authority of Jesus Christ in my life and our world, but I see no reason my personal Christian beliefs need to be promulgated in the public square of State government.

“Kingship” can mean many things to many people, and Christians do not all agree on how Jesus of Nazareth who was acclaimed the Messiah 2000 years ago is also a “king.”

I believe he is my personal Lord and Savior, but he is no political king according to the Gospels. “My kingdom is not of this world.” (John 18:31)

The Gospels portray Jesus as critical of political rulers, religious authorities, and self-appointed experts in the Jewish law, but that does not make him a king with authority over any secular state then, now or tomorrow.

According to the Gospels, the Kingdom of God resides in believers’ hearts and minds, and the values of love, mercy, tolerance and peace take form through their behavior, individually and collectively.

I find this Resolution HCR 3020 to more divisive than unifying, offensive to not only to some Christians, but to Native Americans, and people of other faiths who live in the State of North Dakota.

Therefore, I oppose HCR 3020, and submit this written testimony against it.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Martin Toepke-Floyd