

Preamble

This overture reaffirms our Synod's commitment to the clear and authoritative words of Genesis as the true and inspired Word of God. From the words and context of the first two chapters of Genesis the unmistakable conclusion must be drawn that the world was created in six twenty-four hour days. Any other interpretation must be regarded as doing violence to the natural reading of the text.

The overture is needed because evolutionary theory and concessions to Darwinism are threatening to confuse both teachers and students in our Synod. Though such overtures have been recognized in the past, the so-called "old-earth" creationist positions are gaining popularity. Such positions must be rejected because they necessitate death apart from being a consequence of sin which is contrary to Scripture (Gen. 2:17; 3:19). For this reason, it is important to reiterate our commitment to creation in six twenty-four hour days as indicated by the natural reading of the first two chapters of Genesis. Having reaffirmed our commitment to the Scriptures, the members of the Synod can encourage those who have become confused by Darwinism to hold fast to the comfort and certainty of God's Word.

For all pastors and laity who wish to put forth this overture, the Denver Society of Creation encourages you to amend and improve the wording as you see fit. Recognize, however, that two elements must be maintained for this overture to be meaningful and effective. First, the meaning of the word "day" must remain a twenty-four hour cycle of light and darkness. Any concession on this point would make room for "old earth" positions. Second, once the meaning of day is maintained, the age of the earth, in terms of thousands of years rather than in terms of millions or billions of years, follows necessarily. This position cannot be amended or yielded.

The world and our flesh cannot fathom God's power to speak the cosmos into existence from nothing. As Christians, we must stand on the clear words of Scripture without letting our reason rule over it. We hold every thought captive to Christ (2 Cor. 10:5). He alone is the author and finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:1). Reason must be governed by the Scriptures which alone are able to make us wise for salvation (2 Tim. 3:15). According to Jesus, the Scriptures cannot be broken (John 10:35). This is true despite how sinful men might mishandle the Word of Truth. But we should pray that the Lord would grant this unadulterated reading of the Scriptures among us also.

Overture to Reaffirm the Scriptural Teaching Concerning the Age of the Earth

Whereas, the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, which is God's Word, is the only rule and norm of faith and life (Ps. 119:105; John 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21; FC-SD Binding Summary, 3); and

Whereas, Christ's words presuppose the inspiration and veracity of the five books of Moses (Matt. 17:3; 19:4-5; Mark 12:26; Luke 16:31; 24:44; John 5:46; etc.); and

Whereas, the first two chapters of Genesis teach that the world was made from nothing in six days; and

Whereas, there is no reason to believe from the context or some subtlety of meaning that "day" refers to a span of time longer than 24 hours (see Joel Heck, *In the Beginning, God* (St. Louis: CPH, 2011), 39-47); and

Whereas, the testimony of the Scriptures, given the genealogical witness of Genesis chapters 5 and 10, indicates the age of the earth being near 6000 years; and

Whereas, Darwinian evolution presupposes death before and apart from sin which conflicts with the Scriptures' clear teaching that death came as result of Adam's sin (Rom. 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:21); and

Whereas, St. Paul commands us to hold every human thought captive to Christ (2 Cor. 10:5); therefore be it...

Resolved, that the Rocky Mountain District memorialize the LC-MS in convention to reaffirm the Scriptural doctrine of creation from nothing in six days in conformity with the natural reading of Genesis. And also let it be...

Resolved, that the Rocky Mountain District memorialize the LC-MS in convention to reaffirm the age of the earth in terms of thousands of years rather than in terms of millions or billions of years, so as to reject the erroneous doctrine of Darwinism and all related positions.