

DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS AND THEOLOGICAL OPINIONS (DSTO)

VOLUME 1

A. THESES OF AGREEMENT

III: Conversion

Discussions on the doctrine of Conversion were based on Article II of the Formula of Concord, Thorough Declaration, which was read at a joint meeting on August 12 1948. Since no difference in belief and teaching was noted by either body during the reading, it was established, with thanks to God, that the doctrine of Conversion does not constitute a difference between the two Churches. The following thesis was adopted at a joint meeting held on November 11 1948.

Reviewed July 2001, unedited.

Since there has been a discussion within the Lutheran Church on the doctrine of Conversion, we declare that we accept Article II of the Formula of Concord as a true and clear expression of our belief and teaching. The divine monergism so powerfully set forth in Article II, the teaching that God's grace, operating through the means of grace, alone brings about the conversion of the sinner, is accepted by all. It is acknowledged that, since conversion, strictly so called, consists essentially in the engendering of faith in Christ, there is no room for an intermediary state (*status medius*) between conversion and the unconverted state of the sinner. And finally, any cooperation of the unconverted sinner (synergism) with the grace of God in bringing about his conversion is rejected by all.