

OUR FAITHFUL COMMITMENT TO BEING AN ANTI-RACIST CHURCH

Because we affirm that the beauty and blessedness of God's creation is present in all people:

We make a conscious and deliberate decision to celebrate diversity of creation as uniquely experienced by people of color. We honor the sacredness of people's lives saying, "Black lives matter. Indigenous people's lives matter. People of color's lives matter. LGBTQ+ people of color matter."

Because we know racism will not be eradicated without deliberate engagement in analysis and action:

We shake off complacency and strive constantly to identify the social institutions and practices that grant power and privilege to white people over and against people of color. We do not deflect, deny, or evade opportunities to examine racism and privilege and its effects—and then we work to dismantle it.

Because we confess that harm has been done to people of color in the name of God by words and deeds, and by silence and complacency:

We renounce theologies, ideologies, and doctrines that have been used to justify the enslavement and degradation of people of color. We examine and reimagine church systems and structures, decolonize our iconography and images, and transform the language of liturgies and hymns.

Because we embrace the extravagant love taught by Jesus:

We celebrate black, indigenous, and youth of color and follow their leadership toward creating a world that thinks critically about race and racism, then acts for justice. We preach prophetically, witness publicly, and act boldly to confront injustice in all forms.

Because we recognize the need for greater understanding of how racism and white supremacy have impacted people in faith communities:

We support one another on journeys to learn how racism and its effects are embedded in the Church, in all social institutions, as well as in ourselves. We follow the lead of and come alongside people of color to actively resist and overcome systemic injustices of all kinds.

Because we look forward to the time when every church in our Conference, in the UCC, in our country, and in our world senses the movement of the Spirit, recognizes the impact of racism on people's lives and our communities, and commits to dismantling racism:

We strive for racial justice within all settings of the Conference's ministry, and we support our ministers and laypeople who protest and speak out, and who advocate for equity in access to housing, health care, education, banking, and all other social institutions that disadvantage people of color.

We create Brave Spaces in our Conference and dedicate time for the education, conversation, and discernment central to the journey of being anti-racist and dismantling racism, and we invite all congregations to create Brave Space specific to anti-racism in their own communities.

We hope for each and every congregation to one day prophetically and publicly commit to being an Anti-Racist Church and to living out that commitment anew each day. We commit to BE Church together, live into God's extravagant welcome, and advocate for justice so that all people may know love, safety, belonging, and dignity.



ONE FAITH, MANY CHURCHES

Because in the United Church of Christ (UCC) each setting of the Church covenants to be in relationship and conversation with all other settings, each congregation has the freedom and responsibility for discerning how they will live into commitments to justice and anti-racist work.

Our congregations are diverse, in body and spirit. Some congregations are predominately people of color, some are predominately white, and some are multicultural, multilingual, and multi-racial communities of faith. Some churches have been engaged in anti-racism work since their beginnings because of who they are, some joined during abolition, and others joined the work against white supremacy during the Civil Rights movement. Some churches committed themselves in 1993 or 2003 at the invitation of General Synod to work towards being anti-racist churches; others have just recently started open dialogue about race, racism, and privilege; and others will utilize this invitation to learn more about anti-racism and begin discernment and this faithful work.

Wherever you find yourself and your congregation along this spectrum, gratitude abounds that you are open to engaging the continual work necessary to be an Anti-Racist Church.

What Is an Anti-Racist Church?

An Anti-Racist Church is the United Church of Christ's designation for congregations, campus ministries, conferences, and other settings in the UCC which make a public, collective commitment to the continual and ongoing work to actively understand, identify, and dismantle racism wherever they find it, including in themselves.

Anti-racist churches are inspired by the example of Jesus, to be spiritually grounded, engaged in self-reflection, grow in awareness of systems of power and oppression, and challenge the status quo so that all may experience love, safety, belonging, and dignity.



BE PART OF THE MOVEMENT

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HISTORY OF THE ANTI-RACIST MOVEMENT IN THE UCC



