



Racial Reconciling Intent

Presented by the Racial Justice Team

As participants in the Racial Reconciling Movement, the Minnehaha Racial Justice Team believes and commits to the following on behalf of the congregation:

As stated in Article V of the Constitution of the United Methodist Church:

The United Methodist Church proclaims the value of each person as a unique child of God and commits itself to the healing and wholeness of all persons.

The UMC recognizes that the sin of racism has been destructive to its unity throughout its history. Racism continues to cause painful division and marginalization.

The UMC shall confront and seek to eliminate racism, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large.

The UMC shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of racial justice at all times and in all places.

We have found to be true:

- Jesus' ministry focused on lifting up the most marginalized
- Racism and racial inequity are specific problems in our society
- Failing to listen to the voices and stories of all people is a loss to all of us
- There is often a discrepancy between our values and how we live our lives
- There is no easy answer or quick fix

We want to:

- Assert the right of all people to freedom from legal, economic and social discrimination
- Condemn all overt and covert forms of intolerance, being especially sensitive to media stereotyping
- Break down the established social patterns of the racist value system
- Eliminate racism in our society: individual, cultural, institutional, and systemic

We commit to:

- Be courageous even when faced by the magnitude of the task, by guilt or shame, or by the perceived powerlessness of a single person
- Take intentional steps to eliminate inequities
- Build relationships through on-going efforts
- Raise awareness, speak up and take action, both as a congregation and as individuals
- Provide access to resources and provide action-oriented education to our congregation
- Assess our progress in these commitments on a regular basis

We will:

- Call upon our congregation to pray, seek, and work for the elimination of racism
- Conduct, and repeat annually, a Racial/Ethnic Awareness audit
- Work with a coach to set goals for progress
- Engage in vital conversations in groups and worship
- Transform this Statement of Intent for our congregation to a Covenant Statement made by our congregation