

A Resolution

WHEREAS all people are created in the image of God (Genesis 1), and all nations, tribes and cultures bear witness to the Holy Spirit (Acts 2), and all people are created to form communities of freedom and justice, but white privilege has corroded these core convictions of Christian witness; and

WHEREAS Christian Scriptural authority was mistakenly used to justify Manifest Destiny and later the Boarding School systems that devastated the culture and dignity of First Nations people in North America; and

WHEREAS sinful racial discrimination against people of color and systemic privilege has favored European Americans in law and culture for centuries; and

WHEREAS European and American settlers to the territories of Minnesota devastated Native communities through broken treaties, forced resettlements, and terroristic violence over decades; and

WHEREAS the land and other property which comprise the Minnesota Conference and its member churches largely benefit the cultural inheritors and descendants of European American colonists; and

WHEREAS the state of Minnesota continues to privilege White people, culture and practices over those in Native, Black, Asian, Latin@, and other communities of color; and

WHEREAS generational poverty continues to disproportionately disadvantage people of color as a result; and

WHEREAS religious communions worldwide have in recent years begun acknowledging the complicity of Christians in this history of racism (such as the World Council of Churches in 2004); and

WHEREAS in 1999 the Minnesota Conference, UCC, declared itself a multiracial and multicultural conference; and

WHEREAS the Twenty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ (2001) adopted a resolution on a Call for Study of Reparations for Slavery; and

WHEREAS the Twenty-Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ (2013) adopted a resolution repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery; and

WHEREAS Christians regularly pray to seek God's realm of justice "on earth as in heaven"; and

WHEREAS the Racial Justice Prophetic Ministry Team of the Minnesota Conference is chartered to lead the Minnesota Conference into a greater understanding of racism, then to organize Conference antiracism efforts that foster greater freedom for all Minnesotans;

In the Minnesota Conference of the
United Church of Christ
Annual Meeting on
Date: _____
A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR RACIAL JUSTICE THROUGH REPARATIONS
Submitted by the Racial Justice Prophetic Ministry Team

1 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota Conference reaffirms the historic and faithful commitments
2 of the Annual Meeting and our covenantal partners: finding racism a pervasive sin that mars the full and equal
3 recognition of God's image in all people, repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery by which land and culture were
4 sinfully obtained from Native people through terror and genocide in the name of Christ, confessing those shameful
5 parts of White culture and practice that continue to dehumanize and dishonor God's people, and declaring again our
6 intention to be a multiracial and multicultural Conference.
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ apologizes for the
9 past actions of our faith and its members in the history of slavery, the genocidal abuse of Native people and
10 communities, but particularly the Mdewakanton Dakota, Dakota Oyate, Lakota, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Red
11 Lake Band of Ojibwe, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, White Earth Band of Ojibwe, Chippewa, and other
12 Anishinabewaki, and Očeti Šakówiŋ (Sioux) nations that historically held this land- the mistreatment of immigrants,
13 and the subsequent institutional racism in the laws and practices of our state and country.
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to offer amends for these past wrongs and seek reconciliation with
16 marginalized communities and people of color, we call on the Minnesota Conference, member churches and
17 congregation members to make meaningful efforts to repair the historic and sinful violations that perpetuate white
18 privilege today. Such reparations will take many forms;
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED we recommend consideration of options such as;
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- 22 • Engaging with communities of color and representative organizations to discern the most helpful reparative
23 actions
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- 25 • Learn about White language and symbols in the Christian heritage, seeking alternatives for that which
26 perpetuates systemic racism
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- 28 • Subsidized registration for non-White participants in Conference activities
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- 30 • Opportunities for communities of color to have occasional reduced-cost or free access to outdoor ministry.
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- 32 • Leading every congregation of the Minnesota Conference UCC through the *White Privilege: Let's Talk*
33 training, or another such curriculum
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- 35 • Recognizing rightful use of land, and/or returning possession of land (or a portion thereof), to Native
36 communities
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- 38 • Committing to better serve communities of color nearby, so that congregations might more reasonably
39 reflect their surrounding communities in terms of racial composition
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- 41 • Creating interpretive exhibits in our congregations that unveil the stories of race and privilege in each
42 community's history
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- 44 • Lobbying for change to laws, statutes, and ordinances that have institutionalized racism and white
45 privilege, including unjust policies that pertain to wages, access to jobs, rental properties, home ownership,
46 pensions, and public assistance
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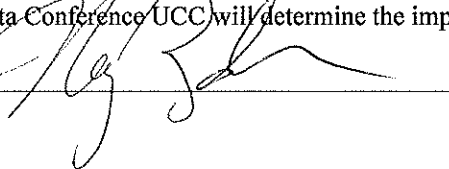
- Other actions that seek to repair the material loss borne by people of color for centuries, and that are embarked upon in mutuality with communities of color

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference creates a designated fund for Racial Justice and Reparations efforts to cover costs associated with Conference reparation initiatives. The initial funding level for this Board-designated fund shall be \$5000 in FY20 , with subsequent funding considered on an annual basis coinciding with the annual budgeting process.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Racial Justice Team of the Minnesota Conference will serve as an education and implementation resource to the Conference, congregations and members in support of this resolution, providing an annual report to the Conference of exemplary actions taken by communities and Conference members to enhance racial justice through reparations.

Funding: Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected entities and the funds available.

Implementation: The Conference Minister, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the Minnesota Conference UCC will determine the implementing body.

Signed  on behalf of the Racial Justice Team, Minnesota Conference
UCC