

A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE AND RESPOND TO RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

*“Woe to you who make unjust policies and draft oppressive legislation, who deprive the powerless of justice and rob poor people—my people—their rights, who prey upon the widowed and rob orphans.”
Isaiah 10:1-2.*

Summary of the Resolution: This Resolution calls the United Church of Christ to declare and respond to racism as a public health crisis. Since its inception, the United Church of Christ has been committed to social justice and has dedicated efforts towards racial justice and health justice. We have called for a commitment to be an antiracist church by examining both historic and contemporary forms of racism. This resolution is consistent with the professed and lived ministry of the UCC and seeks to be another expression of God’s still speaking voice through proclamation and tools for change, such as education, training, and advocacy. This resolution calls upon our churches and conferences to new and increased levels of attention, commitment, and action to work on the elimination of racial and ethnic disparities.

Action Taken as General Synod 33: This resolution passed with overwhelming support. The resolution calls upon the national setting of the United Church of Christ to enable and encourage local churches, conferences, and organizations to develop methods to:

1. Raise the church's consciousness of racism as a public health crisis from theological, bioethical, and public health perspectives.
2. Monitor and advocate for public policies that work towards health equity by addressing social determinants of health and divest in those that cause harm, violence, and death.
3. Discover ways in which current ministries and mission connect with and can address racism as a public health crisis and explore new ways of incorporating this lens into the life of the church.
4. Examine, in radical honesty, past and current organizational policies and practices in how they contribute or create barriers to health equity and racial justice.
5. Identify current and potential relationships with health and human service organizations, advocacy groups, faith and community-based organizations, and academic institutions to collaborate on responding to racism as a public health crisis.
6. Call upon the U. S. Congress and state legislatures to pass legislation that would address social determinants of health, such as The Anti-Racism in Public Health Act, which would create a “Center on Anti-Racism in Health” at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and to establish a “Law Enforcement Violence Prevention Program” at the CDC.

Resources:

An Online course was developed - <https://p2a.co/Dj83ZZR> .

Reason to Have Hope - <https://chhsm.thinkific.com/courses/a-public-health-response-to-racism>

Unnatural Causes series - <https://unnaturalcauses.org/>

CHHSM is a good resource - Tool kit to help <https://www.chhsm.org/advocacy/center/health-care-access/>

Prayerfully submitted,
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