

Council of Areas Action Item

October 24, 2015

Resolution In Support of Our Oneness as Christians and Americans

Background Information: In the wake of the June 17, 2015 massacre by a white racist assassin of nine bible study congregants at Mother Emanuel African American Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina; the Executive Committee of the Christian Church of Mid-America, at its meeting on July 11, 2015, and the Counsel of Areas of the Christian Church of Mid-America, at its meeting on August 22, 2015, adopted a **Resolution In Support of Our Oneness as Christians and Americans**. It is recommended that the Regional Assembly adopt the Resolution as a way of reaffirming our commitment as the Mid-America Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to promote racial equality, social justice, and the valuing of racial diversity.

It is recommended that the Regional Assembly approve the following:

Resolution In Support of Our Oneness as Christians and Americans:

We resolve to take the following actions:

1. As a region, establish a priority of enacting additional policies, procedures, programs, and actions that counter institutional racism and promote our “Oneness in Christ”. Regional governance, as well as existing and newly formed regional programs and ministries are at the center the fight to end racism. Although Pro Reconciliation Anti Racism can serve as a key regional asset in achieving this priority; the region takes on a leadership role and models for our congregations what an anti racist and pro reconciling church looks like. “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ.” Galatians 3: 28 (NRSV)
2. As individuals, congregations, and as a region respond to racist events, locally and nationally, by providing compassion, comfort and pastoral care to African American members, pastors, and congregations throughout the Region to promote healing and reconciliation. In addition, use racist events, both locally and nationally, as an opportunity for teachable moments within our congregations to educate our members about all forms of racism and what they can do to be a part of the solution. “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it...” 1st Corinthians 12: 26 (NRSV) and “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13: 34 (NRSV)