

The Executive Council has recommended this resolution be sent to a committee of the General Synod.

SACRED CONVERSATIONS ON RACE

APPROVED

Prudential Resolution

Submitted by: Kansas-Oklahoma Conference

SUMMARY: Be it therefore resolved that the General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the congregations and associations to continue Sacred Conversations on Race.

BACKGROUND: For more than 300 years, false barriers have divided people in North America. Some of the most significant of these barriers have been and are now based in skin pigmentation. The strength of these barriers was made apparent in spring 2008, when comments made by Pastor Jeremiah Wright of Trinity – UCC in Chicago Metro Association, Illinois Conference, were in the national news. His comments and the response to his comments elicited a call from the Collegium of the national setting of the United Church of Christ for Sacred Conversations on race to begin in our congregations, associations, and conferences.

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL RATIONALE: In Galatians 3:28, Paul states, “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 Jesus.” Racism is an affront to Christian unity. Moreover, racism continually denies the power of Christian baptism. Paul also speaks to us in Romans 8:37, 38 saying, “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” God will have the final word about race.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the United Church of Christ, based on our commitment to the Gospel, call upon the conferences, associations and congregations to **continue to hold establish, promote, and encourage** Sacred Conversations on Race, **and**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Justice **and** Witness Ministries is requested to maintain **and promote** a list of **recommended** resources for **the** Sacred Conversations on Race.

FUNDING

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

IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to implement this resolution.