

**GENERAL SYNOD OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
GENERAL SYNOD 34
JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023
RESOLUTION REPORT**

Resolution 21-GS-14 United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent

A Resolution to recognize the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024): A Resolution of Witness

Report Submitted By: Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith, Executive Associate, Wider Church Ministries

The United Church of Christ reestablished its presence at the United Nations with racial equity named as a priority for the programmatic and advocacy work. The office will have a staff person who will be following the work at the UN including the Decade. The work of the United Nations is a part of Wider Church Ministries.

Ms. Donna Bollinger was hired in May 2023 as the UCC Representative to the United Nations. Most recently Donna served as the Advocacy Officer for the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Office to the United Nations in NYC where she implemented programming addressing the challenges of gender equality and ending gender-based violence, indigenous issues, racial justice, and economic development. In addition to monitoring the work and finding ways for UCC engagement, Ms. Bollinger will also be providing opportunities for global advocacy training for UCC members.

The Join the Movement toward Racial Justice campaign, launched at General Synod 33, continues to engage the themes of the UN Decade as it focuses on racial justice in the United States context.

A UCC delegation attended the first session of the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent (12/5-12/8/22) in Geneva, Switzerland. The UCC is providing a leadership role through the World Council of Churches in providing inputs into the work of the Permanent Forum and other mechanisms related to this International Decade for People of African descent.

Webinars and other resources like the *State of Global Racial Justice webinar* and *Decolonizing the Church*, have been created to engage and inform churches.