

The following resolution was approved by the delegates at a plenary of the Thirty-Fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, held in Indianapolis June 30-July 4, 2023.

**CALLING ON UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST LOCAL CHURCHES TO WITNESS  
“A WHITE SUPREMACY-FREE ZONE” & CONFRONTING WHITE SUPREMACY**

**A Resolution of Witness**

**TEXT OF THE MOTION**

**WHEREAS**, Exodus 20:3 admonishes us to “. . . *have no other gods before me,*” and

**WHEREAS**, Jesus in the Gospel of Luke chapter four teaches us, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him,’” and

**WHEREAS**, as people of faith, rooted in the gospel of justice, we are admonished to tear down the idols that keep us from the simple but true worship of God,<sup>1</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, God created humankind in God’s image and likeness, people are image bearers, sharing equal status as human beings. God did not create race, racism, superior groups of humans, and hierarchical and hegemonic social structures<sup>2</sup>, and

**WHEREAS**, the Nineteenth General Synod, 1993, passed a Statement of Christian Conviction of the Proposed Pronouncement Calling the United Church of Christ to be a Multiracial and Multicultural Church.<sup>3</sup> The call to be a multiracial and multicultural church is an acknowledgement that racial justice is the inclusiveness of all humans and never excludes anyone based on skin color, culture or ethnic origin, and

**WHEREAS**, the Twenty-Fifth General Synod, 2003, addressed white supremacy through calling on the United Church of Christ Called to be an Anti-Racist Church<sup>4</sup>, and

**WHEREAS**, the Thirty-First General Synod, 2017, Affirming and Supporting the Authorized Ministries of Under-Represented Clergy in Local Congregations: A Call for Greater Representation and Economic Justice<sup>5</sup>, and

**WHEREAS**, the Thirty-First General Synod, 2017, addressing white supremacy through calling On Establishing Procedures for Cultural Diversity Training for Authorized Ministers<sup>6</sup>, and

**WHEREAS**, for a local church to declare their communities and settings as “A White Supremacy-Free Zone” is to take away the quiet existence of racism and white idolatry and forces the issue into the communities in which UCC houses of worship exist, and

**WHEREAS**, for a local church to publicly express that “We are confronting white supremacy,” forces the discussion and action to end white supremacy, and

**WHEREAS**, God has not given us a spirit of fear, but the spirit of power, of courage and

39 resolution, to meet difficulties and dangers; the spirit of love which will carry us through  
40 opposition.” 2 Timothy 1:7, and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, it is time for the White Church to experience its own Damascus Road Story – to  
43 have an “Aha!” moment that transforms our local congregations and denomination away from  
44 unjust and unholy political, economic, and social structures that degrade people of color as  
45 inferior and are supported by European-centered theology,<sup>7</sup> and

46  
47 **WHEREAS**, the Damascus Road Story requires a journey of confronting White Supremacy  
48 through questions, discussion, study of White Privilege, White Supremacy and Systemic Racism,  
49 and then planning for and moving to action to become anti-racist and disrupt racism now, and

50  
51 **WHEREAS**, the UCC continues to advocate for the dismantling of racism through education,  
52 study, policy and action, and

53  
54 **WHEREAS**, the Potomac Association of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church  
55 of Christ, supporters of the resolution, have developed a plan for its implementation and calls on  
56 UCC local churches to begin the journey of Confronting White Supremacy and becoming a  
57 White Supremacy-Free Zone, and

58  
59 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fourth General Synod of the United Church  
60 of Christ calls on all settings of the UCC, including local churches of predominantly European  
61 descent and local UCC churches in general, to confront the idolatry of white supremacy, in  
62 witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ,

63  
64 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fourth General Synod of the United  
65 Church of Christ calls on UCC local churches of predominantly European descent, and UCC  
66 local churches in general, to embark on an intentional journey of public commitment, study, and  
67 action to actively construct “A White Supremacy-Free Zone,”

68  
69 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fourth General Synod of the United  
70 Church of Christ calls for action through the implementation of <sup>8</sup>“Journey Towards Confronting  
71 White Supremacy and Creating a White Supremacy-Free Zone Local Congregation: An  
72 Intentional Study and Action Guide to Challenge Racism and White Supremacy,”

73  
74 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fourth General Synod of the United  
75 Church of Christ encourages all local churches to participate in the implementation of this  
76 resolution, starting wherever they are,

77  
78 **AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fourth General Synod of the United  
79 Church of Christ calls on UCC local churches of predominantly European descent, and UCC  
80 local churches in general, to publicly express, “We are confronting white supremacy.” Together,  
81 let us unite, challenge systems of oppression, and promote a future of equality and justice,  
82 reflecting the love and character of our Creator.

83

84 **FUNDING:** The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance  
85 with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

86  
87 **IMPLEMENTATION:** The Officers of the Church, in consultation with appropriate ministries  
88 or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Jesus and the Disinherited*, Rev. Howard Thurman, 1949

<sup>2</sup> NYTimes, *1619 Project*, 2022 <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html>

<sup>3</sup> Resolution “Statement of Christian Conviction of the Proposed Pronouncement Calling the United Church of Christ to be a Multiracial and Multicultural Church”. Adopted by the 1993 General Synod. [https://www.ucc.org/justice\\_multiracial-multicultural/justice\\_multiracial-multicultural\\_pronouncement/](https://www.ucc.org/justice_multiracial-multicultural/justice_multiracial-multicultural_pronouncement/)

<sup>4</sup> United Church of Christ Called to be an Anti-Racist Church. Adopted by the 2003 General Synod as Multiracial/Multicultural Addendum to the 1993 Pronouncement & Proposal for Action. [https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/justice-local-church-ministries/justice/faithful-action-ministries/racial-justice/justice\\_racism\\_anti-racist-church/](https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/justice-local-church-ministries/justice/faithful-action-ministries/racial-justice/justice_racism_anti-racist-church/)

<sup>5</sup> Resolution Affirming & Supporting the Authorized Ministries of Under-Represented Clergy in Local Congregations: A Call for Greater Representation & Economic Justice. A Prudential Resolution, Adopted by the Thirty-first General Synod, July 3, 2017, Baltimore, Maryland. [https://www.ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2017\\_AFFIRMING\\_SUPPORTING\\_AUTHORIZED\\_MINISTRIES\\_OF\\_UNDER\\_REP\\_CLERGY\\_IN\\_LOCAL\\_CONGREGATIONS.pdf](https://www.ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2017_AFFIRMING_SUPPORTING_AUTHORIZED_MINISTRIES_OF_UNDER_REP_CLERGY_IN_LOCAL_CONGREGATIONS.pdf)

<sup>6</sup>Resolution On Establishing Procedures for Cultural Diversity. Adopted by the Thirty-first General Synod, July 3, 2017, Baltimore, Maryland

<sup>7</sup> Robert Jones, Phd, *White Too Long*, 2020

<sup>8</sup> [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1WUnhr2RceKtr5-7OxJu1erTczkdgZ78\\_/edit#slide=id.p1](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1WUnhr2RceKtr5-7OxJu1erTczkdgZ78_/edit#slide=id.p1)