

**A Statement of Witness from the
Rhode Island Conference United Church of Christ
November 5, 2016**

Provoked by the Holy Spirit, we bear witness to the congregations, communities, and pastors of the Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ:

- God calls us to lean in, look hard, and pay close, prayerful, purposeful attention to the devastation caused by White Privilege in America.
- It is the responsibility of white people to do this leaning, hard looking, and close attending. It is the responsibility of white people to raise and name terrible truths, trusting God who lovingly convicts and redeems.
- We refuse the vision of shallow, fragile tolerance among muted peoples. We watch for the way to reparation as a prelude to reconciliation. We pray and work for the day when every racial uniqueness is passionately celebrated as a reflection of the face of God.

We honor the sovereignty of First Nation peoples. We stand, speak, and act in solidarity with the people of God whose holy ground is called Standing Rock Reservation, **as well as the first peoples who inhabited the southern New England region before us.**

- We move at their invitation, grateful for their leadership, with offerings of prayer, provision, and presence.

We are more fully the people God calls us to be when we are together – learning together, working together, moving together.