

1           **A RESOLUTION OF IMPLEMENTATION CALLING FOR ANTI-RACISM AND**  
2   **RACIAL JUSTICE TRAINING FOR CLERGY**

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4 Submitted by the Racial Justice Ministries Team of the CT Conference UCC, the Spring Glen  
5 Church UCC in Hamden, the First Congregational Church of Guilford, & Immanuel  
6 Congregational Church in Hartford

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8 **WHEREAS**, Jesus instructed us in the gospels to reconcile with our neighbor before  
9           approaching God’s altar (Matt:5:24); and to remove the log from our own eye before  
10           removing the speck from our neighbor’s eye (Matt:7:3); and

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12 **WHEREAS**, the Hebrew Scriptures teach us that God delights in diversity, that all humanity  
13           bears God’s image (Gen:1:26), that Sabbath protections extend to all people in the land  
14           (Ex. 20:8-11 and Dt. 5:12-15), that love of neighbor is commanded (Lv. 1:17); and

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16 **WHEREAS**, the Epistles teach us that Christ came to break down the dividing wall that is the  
17           hostility between us that we might be reconciled as one body with diverse members  
18           (Eph 2); and

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20 **WHEREAS**, the Missionary Society of Connecticut has a long history of working on the  
21           forefront of racial justice, boasting the first known African American Christian minister  
22           to be formally ordained in a predominantly white mainline denomination, having played  
23           an active role in the fight to free the captives of the Amistad, and having taken public  
24           stands against segregation both here in America and abroad in the recent decades; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, in the year 2017, the Thirty First General Synod of the United Church of Christ  
27           passed a resolution calling on all judicatory and educational settings of the denomination  
28           to include the study of cultural diversity/sensitivity and institutional racism in clergy  
29           preparation and continuing education, and as a requirement for maintaining standing for  
30           all persons engaged in authorized ministry within and on behalf of the United Church of  
31           Christ; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, nearly 30 years after the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ  
34           became an Open & Affirming body and adopted its Inclusive Non-Discrimination Policy,  
35           people of color still experience racism in local churches and at the Conference, racism  
36           that is intentional and unintentional, personal and institutional, interpersonal and cultural,  
37           offenses that are often committed, condoned, or ignored by clergy; and

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39 **WHEREAS**, our country has seen both the resurgence of overt white supremacy and continued  
40           covert racism embodied in white privilege, sins that require repentance, confession and  
41           education in order to be redeemed.

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43 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the delegates to the 151<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

44 of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ urge the Associations of  
45 the Conference and their Committees on Ministry to adopt a policy requiring all  
46 Authorized Ministers (including Ordained, Limited Standing, Licensed, and  
47 Commissioned) to participate in, at minimum, a one-day workshop on racism and racial  
48 justice within three years of adoption of the policy or within three years of being granted  
49 standing by the Association, and repeat training within each subsequent three to five year  
50 period; and

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52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call upon the Associations of the Conference and their  
53 Committees on Ministry to adopt a policy requiring Members In-Discernment to  
54 participate in, at minimum, a one-day workshop on racism and racial justice as a  
55 prerequisite for ordination; and

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57 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call upon the Connecticut Conference to make its  
58 Racial Justice Training available for Members-in-Discernment and Authorized Ministers  
59 at least twice during each calendar year; and

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61 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call upon the Connecticut Conference, working with  
62 the Racial Justice Ministries, Regional Ministers, Regional Ministry Teams, and local  
63 churches to expand its Racial Justice Training for Christian Educators, Youth Leaders,  
64 Sunday School Teachers, Music Directors, Organists, Choir Directors, and other Lay  
65 Leaders; and

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67 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Connecticut Conference make available resources to  
68 help congregations build allies and better support, encourage, and nurture clergy of color  
69 and lay leaders of color; and

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71 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Connecticut Conference make available resources for  
72 clergy to connect their congregations with active anti-racist movements locally,  
73 nationally, and globally.