

We Believe - Yes, but...

Because We Believe...

... that God is the creator of all people and all are God's children in one family
... that racism is a rejection of the teaching of Jesus Christ

...that racism denies the redemption and reconciliation of Jesus Christ

... that racism robs all human beings of their wholeness and is used as a justification for social, economic and political exploitation

...that we must declare before God and before each other that we have sinned against our sisters and brothers of other races in thought, in word and in deed;

...that in our common humanity in creation all women and men are made in God's image and all persons are equally valuable in God's sight

...that our strength lies in our racial and cultural diversity and that we must work toward a world in which each person's value is respected and nurtured

... that our struggle for justice must be based on new attitudes, new understandings and new relationships and must be reflected in the laws, policies and structures of both church and state

Yes, but...

... Didn't the election of Barack Obama, an African American, prove that race is not longer important and that we live in a post-race society and don't need to talk about race anymore?

...We are in the midst of a serious global economic crisis and we have to protect our workers and our jobs that include controlling the race and skill levels of those who can come to this country.

... Newcomers to the United States have to accept our values and learn our language, they shouldn't get the benefits of citizenships without working for them.

...The United States is under threat from terrorists; our struggle against them has nothing to do with racism.

...Other races and ethnicities want to stay within their own groups, they are not interested in learning about us.

We Wills Worksheet

United Methodist Women (3,8)

We will...

- Increase our efforts to recruit women of all races into membership of United Methodist Women and provide leadership development opportunities without discrimination
- Support nomination and election processes which include all racial groups employing a quota system until the time that our voluntary performance make such practice unnecessary

Local Church and Community (2,4,5)

We will:

- Create opportunities in local churches to deal honestly with existing racist attitudes and social distance between members, deepening the Christian commitment to be the church where all racial groups and economic classes come together.
- Create workshops and seminars in local churches to study, understand and appreciate the historical and cultural contributions of each race to the church and community.
- Increase local churches awareness of the continuing needs for equal education, housing, employment and medical care for all members of the community, and create opportunities to work for these things across racial lines.

National and International (1,6,7)

We will:

- Eliminate all forms of institutional racism in the total ministry of the church with special attention given to those institutions which we support, beginning with their employment practices, purchasing practices and availability of services and facilities.
- Work for the development and implementation of national and international policies to protect the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of all people such as through support for the ratification of United Nations covenants on human rights.
- Support and participate in the worldwide struggle for liberation in church and community.