

RACIAL TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND RECONCILIATION COVENANT

Trusting in the grace of God that overflows with faith and love¹,
we acknowledge that we have constructed and sustained the false concept of race,
with systemic racism embedded in our nation, institutions, and selves.
Therefore, we seek to transform ourselves, our church, and our world.

Recognizing that God *shows no partiality²* and made us all of *one blood³,*
we confess that we
use race to advantage some and disadvantage others,
focus on individual prejudice rather than on unjust systems,
perpetuate the oppression, legacy, and effects of racism
through our indifference or complicity, and
deny that overcoming racism is a spiritual struggle.
Therefore, we recognize our need to be forgiven and to forgive.

As Jesus did not count equality with God as something to be exploited but humbled himself⁴,
we commit
to listen, learn, and walk in humility
to better understand and repair the evils of racism.
As we journey together, there is no one to whom
we can say, *'we have no need of you.'⁵*

We appeal to you, brothers and sisters, do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God⁶ --

With God's help we covenant
to continually:
learn and speak the truth about racism,
work for racial justice and equity,
structure the common life of the United Church of Chapel Hill
to embody the gifts of all,
participate in the transformation of our racialized world and, in so doing,
reconcile ourselves to God and to each other.

We give thanks and praise to God for our redemption
and the promise of our life together made new.

Church Council, April 26, 2016
Congregational Meeting, June 5, 2016

¹ 1 Timothy 1:12-17

² Acts 10:34

³ Acts 17:26, KJV

⁴ Philippians 3:1-8, passage in Paul lifts up the radical humility of Jesus

⁵ 1 Corinthians 12, passage in which Paul affirms the diversity of the community and the gifts of each and all

⁶ Romans 12:1-3

RACIAL TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND RECONCILIATION COVENANT, *liturgical*

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