

No. 0121

(Operational Business Item)

**AN ACT OF REPENTANCE CALLING THE
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
TO BE AN ANTI-RACIST, PRO-RECONCILING COMMUNITY**

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, Scripture calls us to love one another (Matthew 22:37-40), and to be reconciled to God and to one another (II Corinthians 5:16-21), as heirs and joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:14-17) gathered at the Welcome Table; and

WHEREAS, the Mission Imperatives remind the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that it is called to become the good news, share the good news serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth engaging in ministries of reconciliation, compassion, unity and justice; and

WHEREAS, in 1996 the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) appointed a Steering Committee to guide discernment about God's vision regarding the nature of racism and transformation needed in the church; and

WHEREAS, we understand racism as racial prejudice plus power (the power of systems and institutions to abuse); and

WHEREAS, the Steering Committee for the Process of Discernment on Racism identified racism as a sin as well as a social evil, that racist practice exists throughout the life of the church, that racism is a systemic problem with historical root causes; and

WHEREAS, the Administrative Committee and the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at their July 1998 meetings approved the Anti-racism/Pro-reconciliation Initiative presented by the Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Initiative called the church to become a community where brothers and sisters of all races, languages, and cultures will grow towards God's glorious realm, where all have a place at the table and none shall be turned away ; and

WHEREAS, sixteen regions and areas and five general ministries of our church are currently engaged in long-term anti-racist, pro-reconciling organizational transformation, and have named both a vision and a means of claiming that vision for the church; and

WHEREAS, General Minister and President Richard Hamm has named the sin of racism the most profound moral and social problem in our church and society today:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as an act of repentance, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Kansas City, July 13-17, 2001, declares that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) confesses that racism is a sin and is an historic and ongoing reality in this church; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is called to be and resolves to become an anti-racist, pro-reconciling communion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all vestiges of racism be eradicated from the structures of this church and the structures be transformed in order to empower people of all racial ethnic groups; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the General Board is called upon to establish an anti-racism, pro-reconciliation commission to facilitate this church-wide transformational commitment.