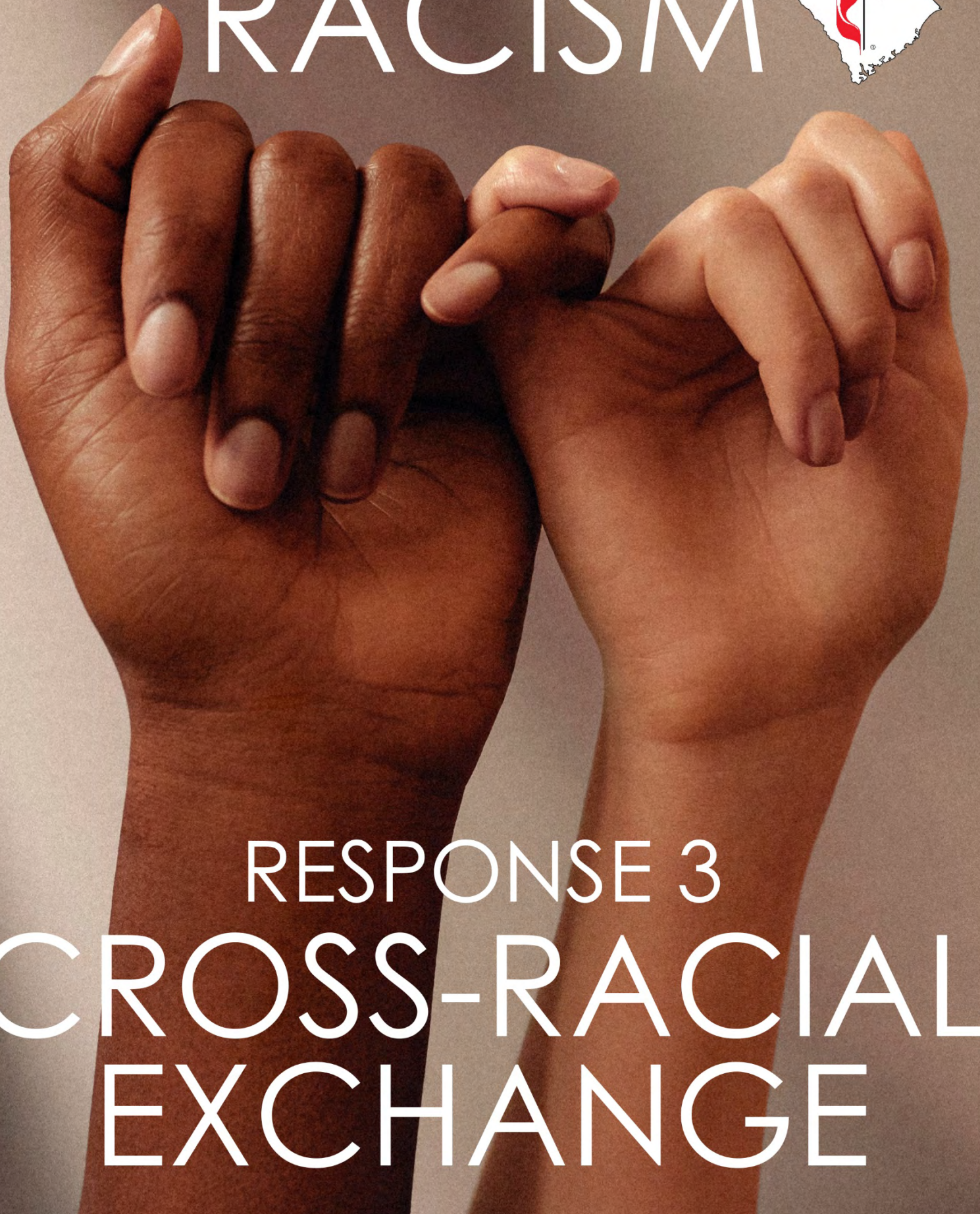


OUR RESPONSE TO RACISM



RESPONSE 3

CROSS-RACIAL
EXCHANGE

Response 3 – Cross-Racial Exchange

Next Steps

“How could we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?”

– Psalm 137:4

Another way to gain traction against racism is to begin to do work together as congregations. It is vitally important that groundwork be done to connect congregations personally. There is power in cooperative effort. When we connect across racial, cultural, national and ethnic lines, we learn from each other and draw strength for tough challenges.

1-on-1

Barriers are broken by people who are intentional about getting to know someone different from themselves. Here are some suggested next steps to help participants in your small group make these personal connections:

- Identify one or more persons you could covenant to pray for daily and meet with at least one hour per month.
- Develop a worship service for two or more congregations with a person from a racial ethnic congregation providing the sermon and the other participating church(es) providing music and liturgy.
 - This process could be done quarterly with responsibilities for worship shared and presented in the context of the sharer.
 - This allows us to appreciate different traditions within the Methodist Movement.
- Worship should lead us into a living liturgy – the work of the people. Find a common cause that the congregations can work on together to the glory of God.
- Make certain the goal is attainable and quantifiable. Finally, be sure that it is God-given and requires some faith to achieve.

Groups

Once the groundwork is laid on a personal level, here are some ways for congregations to connect with each other:

- Intentional cross-racial pulpit exchanges
- Creating opportunities for cross-racial churches to serve their communities together.
- Other ways people can gain from their common experience:
 - Small groups (Bible studies, men, women, children, youth)
 - Mission projects
 - Community improvement actions taken together

Personal Ideas

It is important to think of concrete ways to move beyond talk – to walk the walk. We should do intentional things that help us grow in this journey. One example: Once a month, have an intentional conversation with someone from another racial, cultural, national, and ethnic group.

It starts with me.



“Our Response To Racism:
Forming Authentic Connections Across Racial Lines”
was developed by a team from the [South Carolina Conference of
The United Methodist Church](#). It is intended for use by local
churches and other groups that desire to take steps to eliminate
racism and the separation it has fostered among God’s people.

We extend our appreciation to all involved for their work.

This resource can be downloaded at

umcsc.org/endiracism

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