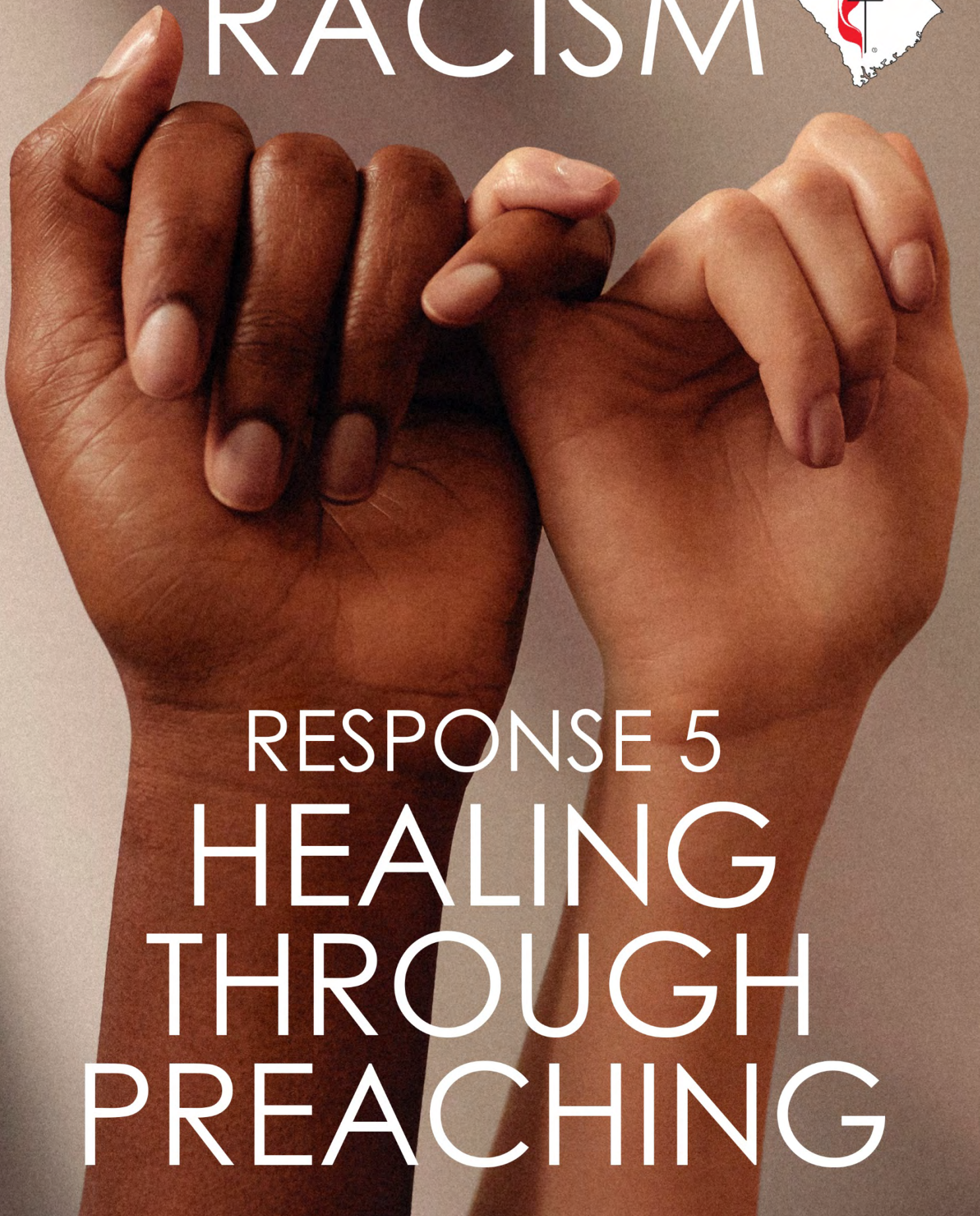


OUR RESPONSE TO RACISM



RESPONSE 5
HEALING
THROUGH
PREACHING

Response 5 – Healing Through Preaching

Attentive Care of the Body, Soul and Spirit toward the Healing of Christ's Church and Our Communities

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me..."

– Luke 4:18

Scriptural References

- [1 Corinthians 12:12-26](#)
- [Romans 12:1-2,4-5,9-18](#)
- [Ephesians 4:1-16](#)
- [Luke 10:25-37](#)

Paul's correspondence to the churches at Corinth, Rome and Ephesus, and Luke's gospel to the God-lovers of the early church of Jesus Christ speak volumes to the recognition and concerns of divisions, various disparities and a lack of sufficient care among the people of God.

Paul appeals to the churches of believers and followers of Jesus Christ because it has been recognized and acknowledged by members of the body that there were divisions among them affecting the overall health of their communities and their witness.

Like Paul and these early churches, we, the people of the South Carolina Annual Conference called United Methodist, find ourselves in a critical time of recognizing, examining and acknowledging the divisiveness of the sin of racism. We also recognize that racism affects our health as a church of Jesus Christ and weakens witness for Jesus Christ in the world.

The sin of racism has blurred and skewed views and practices concerning the nature of Christ's apostolic ministry given to us in South Carolina to carry out into the world – a ministry that calls us to live together in love and to care for each other.

The above-referenced scriptures and many others call us to have our vision, mind, body, soul and spirit examined and to be rightly fitted with the corrective lens and full armor of God's word fulfilled in and through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

These texts give us a blueprint to help us realize and recognize:

- Who we are together in Jesus Christ;
- Our strength as Christ's Church – even a church stricken with the chronic and cancerous sin of racism;
- The power the Holy Spirit gives to us to “belong, become and be” Christ's disciples and to make disciples for the transformation of the world – even a world stricken with the chronic and cancerous sin of racism.

Equity in our communities

What would human relational equity look like among the people called United Methodist and in the South Carolina communities in which we live and serve?

- **1 Corinthians 12** speaks to the church's spiritual leadership and the importance of equity in relationships and caring for each other in the community. Relational equity, according to Paul, is leading and caring in such a way that – first and foremost – there will be no dissension within the community, because we are so lovingly interwoven together. *“We have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.”* (vv. 24-26).
- **Romans 12** and **Luke 10:25-37** speak to what attitudes and behaviors we need to live out these types of relationships day by day as we offer ourselves to God and each other in service. We need sacrificial love and godly love of self and neighbor ([Luke 6:27-37](#)) – even a neighbor who may be seen as an enemy or a racist.
- **Ephesians 4** speaks to living a life worthy of our calling in Christ Jesus and what that would look like as clergy and lay leaders within the body of Christ in the world – leaders who use their gifts to help disciples grow and mature by speaking the truth in love.



“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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