

OUR RESPONSE TO RACISM



RESPONSE 6

ACCOUNTABLE
HONESTY
IN SOCIETY

Response 6 – A Call to Accountable Honesty in Society Beyond the Church

A Biblical Mandate

“First go and be reconciled to them...”

– Matthew 5:24

Scriptural Reference

- [Matthew 5:21-24](#)

The integrity of truth is necessary when attempting to end an ingrained system of oppression. Healing of human hurts will never be complete or adequate without the cleansing disinfectant of confession.

Those who have propagated wrong and those who have been wronged need the attention of each other in transparent binary acknowledgment of the sin.

Such an open expression of truth plants seeds of hope in the individuals immediately involved. When recorded for public review, it also serves as a powerful tool to educate others who have not experienced or considered how their actions or attitudes can be racist and, therefore, damaging.

We urge the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission – styled after [that of the post-Apartheid movement in South Africa](#) – to fully examine the effects of slavery on African Americans and to recommend to the U.S. Congress and the president actions, policies and practices to ameliorate the generational negative effects of slavery, legal segregation and Jim Crow laws preventing equal access to resources for African and Native Americans.

Such examination must focus not only on the historically known examples of racist action and their persistent damaging effects, but also on specific current racially motivated acts of violence as well as the various movements of domestic terrorism known as white nationalism.

The work of this commission would result in a series of truth-telling conversations between offenders and survivors. Such a movement should not be considered a substitute for justice where racist crimes have been committed, but rather a stage in the restoration and reconciliation process that will serve to provide hope to broken communities and education to future generations.

It may not fix what has been done,
but it can improve what happens next.



“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/endracism

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