

Congregational Racial Justice Statements

What, if any, is your congregation's draft or completed racial justice statement?

What are the purposes of developing our racial justice statement?

- Presents opportunities to recognize and discuss racial injustice
- Offers an entry point to acknowledge our roles in racial injustice
- Encourages working together, which is essential for the process of developing racial justice statements
- Helps us consider how racial justice efforts relate to our congregation's overall mission
- Prompts us to set goals and establish direction for our congregation's racial justice work
- Identifies a basis for measurement of our progress towards greater racial justice

ABCs of Racial Justice Statements

Asembling: How will our congregation assemble a process for developing a racial justice statement?

- Who will we assemble to be part of the discussion?
- How will the process take place?

Believing: What are our shared beliefs and/or common values?

Possible responses of our shared beliefs or common values:

- We are all created in God's image
- In Christ, there are no divisions
- God loves us all equally
- Our shared values include ...

Considering: Considering our shared beliefs, what is our congregation's vision for racial justice?

Possible responses about our vision of how our congregation's racial justice will look in broad terms:

- We consistently and intentionally reach out to people from cultures or contexts different from our own
- We welcome everyone just as they are and show them genuine hospitality
- We have authentic and meaningful relationships with all of our neighbors
- We actively advocate and work for justice and equity for all people in every place

DEF Next Steps--

Disseminating: What process will we use for disseminating our racial justice statement?

- With whom will we share the statement?
- How will we disseminate or distribute the statement?
- Will we consider revisions to our statement based on the feedback we receive?

Engaging: In what specific actions will we engage to reach our vision?

- Is our worship inviting to and inclusive of people from diverse backgrounds?
- Do our programs meet the needs and passions of people from many contexts?
- How should our congregation work for racial justice in our community and greater society?

Foreseeing: What do we foresee about our congregation's journey towards racial justice?

- What strengths and assets does our congregation have that we can use to reach our justice vision?
- What challenges might we encounter in the ongoing process toward racial justice?
- How can our congregation's strengths and assets help us overcome these challenges?