

XYZ CHURCH ANTI-RACISM POLICY

As followers of Christ, we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:39) and to fully embrace the truth that God equally loves and values all people (John 3:16, Romans 5:8, Galatians 3:28).

These New Testament passages rest on the foundation of the Old Testament. From the Pentateuch's outline of a covenant community built on pillars of justice and mutual responsibility to the prophets' fiery presentations of God's expectations and calls for fairness that echo through the Wisdom literature, the Old Testament reminds us again and again about God's call to full inclusion and equity.

Understanding racism and its traumatic effect on those who experience it is of paramount importance if divisive racial barriers are to be torn down and structural racism is to be dismantled.

Being guided by these Scriptures and in accordance with the Book of Order, our Session hereby adopts the following Anti-Racism Policy.

Racism is defined as: *1. The belief that race accounts for differences in human character or ability and that a particular race is superior to others. 2. Discrimination or prejudice based on race.*ⁱ

The XYZ Church is committed to growing in our awareness of the presence of racism in our congregation and individual lives. We are dedicated to developing anti-racist behavior that restores the dignity of men and women and brings genuine unity to the Body of Christ.

Furthermore, we will work within our sphere of influence to eliminate racism wherever it may exist and in whatever form.

ⁱ Houghton Mifflin Company. (1996). Racism. In American Heritage Dictionary of The English Language (Third Edition, p. 1489).