



# ANTI-RACISM POLICY

## For Lemoore Presbyterian Church (LPC)

Racism and all forms of discrimination and marginalization are sins against humanity and God, inconsistent with our Christian and corporate values and unacceptable within the church and this congregation.

Racism is contrary to the Gospel injunction to love God and our neighbor as ourselves. Scriptures teach us that though we are individually unique, we are collectively, as children of God, one in God's eyes, equally beloved by God. As disciples of Jesus Christ, our congregation will engage in the transformative work to build the beloved community of Christ where there is neither "Jew nor Greek...no longer slave or free...no longer male or female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28.

Racism is more than individual acts of bigotry or prejudice. **Racism includes any system, institution, cultural practice, or tradition which produces outcomes that preferentially protect, empower, or benefit the lives, property, or status of one race over another.**

### **LPC will actively resist racism in its leadership, membership, and ministry by:**

1. Providing training to staff, elders, and corporate officers as part of annual orientation;
2. Evaluating ministry program outcomes for potential racism or bias;
3. Emphasizing in our worship, ministry, and communications that diversity and inclusion are *inherent* to the gospel of Jesus Christ;
4. Seeking to act as faithful disciples of Christ in ministering and caring for the marginalized in our congregation, our community, our world, and as a witness of God's love for all creation.

We acknowledge that this work will not be easy. But, as our church wide antiracism policy affirms:

*"Because of our biblical understanding of who God is and what God intends for humanity, the PC(USA) must stand against, speak against, and work against racism. Antiracist effort is not optional for Christians. It is an essential aspect of Christian discipleship, without which we fail to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ."*