

Litany: Charter for Racial Justice

Part 1

Leader: United Women in Faith first adopted the “Charter of Racial Policies” in 1952. We worked on ratification at multiple levels of the organization and readopted an updated version in 1962. Throughout the years, we lobbied The United Methodist Church to officially adopt the Charter, seeking to bring its commitments to the full body of the church. The Charter was first received by the General Conference in 1964 and first included in The Book of Resolutions in 1980. Since then, it has been updated and readopted regularly by delegates to General Conference. From the 1950s to the present, the Charter has been a core part of our identity.

Leader: Because we believe:

ALL: That God is the Creator of all people and all are God’s children in one family;

Leader: Because we believe:

ALL: That racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ;

Leader: Because we believe:

ALL: That racism denies the redemption and reconciliation of Jesus Christ;

Leader: Because we believe:

ALL: That racism robs all human beings of their wholeness and is used as a justification for social, economic, environmental, and political exploitation;

Leader: Because we believe:

ALL: That we must declare before God and before one another that we have sinned against our sisters and brothers of other races in thought, in word, and in deed;

Leader: Because we believe:

ALL: That in our common humanity in creation all women and men are made in God’s image and all persons are equally valuable in the sight of God;

Leader: Because we believe:

ALL: That our strength lies in our racial and cultural diversity and that we must work toward a world in which each person’s value is respected and nurtured;

Leader: Because we believe:

ALL: That our struggle for justice must be based on new attitudes, new understandings, and new relationships and must be reflected in the laws, policies, structures, and practices of both church and state.

Leader: Because we believe:

ALL: We commit ourselves as individuals and as a community to follow Jesus Christ in word and in deed and to struggle for the rights and the self-determination of every person and group of persons. Amen.