Resolution as adopted by the United Church of Christ General Synod 33, July 11-18, 2021

A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT (2015-2024)

A Resolution of Witness

TEXT OF THE MOTION

WHEREAS the human rights of African descendant people globally and in the United States continue to be challenged by the presence of racism and the legacy of whiteness, and

WHEREAS a myriad of social issues are byproducts of the racial inequities stemming from prejudice, bigotry, White privilege, White fragility, and White supremacy, and

WHEREAS the numbers of incarcerated people of African descent in the Americas continues to grow, and

WHEREAS disparities in healthcare, housing, education, the plight of women and girls, and a myriad of interconnected issues point to the need for addressing racism and calling attention to the need to protect the human rights of African descendant people.

WHEREAS in many countries, while African descendant people attained civil rights, the human rights guaranteed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly continue to be elusive, and

WHEREAS data show that police have continued killing Black men and women at disproportionate rates, even after the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor sparked international protests against racism and police brutality, with a total of 164 Black men and women who were killed by police from January 1 to August 31, 2020, and

WHEREAS in June of 2020 four black men, Malcolm Harsch, Robert Fuller Dominique Alexander and an unidentified Black teenager were found hanged to death, all reported by authorities to have committed suicide, a claim disputed by their family members and many other people, and

WHEREAS the Bible and Christian theology affirm imago dei – that all people are created in the image of God; and

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has consistently shown leadership in advocacy and for the rights of African descendant people in the United States and globally; and

WHEREAS the United Nations declaration of the Decade calls for the promotion and protection of the rights of people of African descent; and

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ passed several resolutions that address the unfair treatment of people of African descent, that call for legislation and action to address injustices perpetuated against African descendant people and continues to decry the systems that support and perpetuate white privilege and white supremacy as tools that produce racism and racial
inequality;

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ continues to advocate for the dismantling of racism and racist institutions through education and policy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ recognizes the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015 - 2024);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages all settings of the Church to increase awareness of the United Nations Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024) and work ecumenically to promote the Decade;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages all settings of the Church to utilize this Decade to intentionally address the legacy of the Transatlantic Slave Trade;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages all settings of the Church to adopt the Decade themes of recognition, justice and development as frameworks for its advocacy, commitments and engagement in the fight for the rights of People of African Descent.

FUNDING: The funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

IMPLEMENTATION: The Officers of the Church, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

1 http://undocs.org/A/RES/68/237
2 https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C3&as_vis=1&q=disparities+and+racism&btnG=
4 https://scholar.google.com/scholar?q=healthcare+disparities+and+racism&hl=en&as_sdt=0&as_vis=1&oi=scholart
10 https://couriernewroom.com/2020/06/18/4-black-men-were-found-hanged-in-3-weeks-what-is-happening/