

INCREASING THE NUMBER OF CLERGY OF COLOR IN VERMONT

"Whereas, the Gospel reveals Jesus Christ as the One in whom all humanity is unified; and

Whereas, the United Church of Christ has asked that all recognize and acknowledge the oneness of humanity by inclusion on its emblem from John (17:21), "That They May All Be One"; and

Whereas, the vision of the United Church of Christ requires that our faith be full-time and be present in all aspects of our lives; and

Whereas, Vermont, although known for its traditions of independence and toleration of differences, has nevertheless experienced racist attitudes and incidents from its earliest years; and

Whereas, in recent years the expression of racist attitudes and the occurrence of racist incidents have increased markedly as the population of Vermont has become more racially and ethnically diverse; and

Whereas, the 1999 Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ passed "A Resolution on Uprooting Racism in Vermont" that asked the Department of Mission to combat racism within ourselves, our churches, and our communities, and to actively and openly seek and implement activities to eliminate racism, and to support with our prayers, organizational skills, and many religious and other organizations in formulating actions designed to eliminate racism within Vermont, and to do self-reflection to find ways to identify and eliminate racist habits and actions within our selves in our daily personal activities and interactions; and

Whereas, by the 2000 census, Vermont is 96.8% "white"; and

Whereas, the number of clergy of color in Vermont is seen to be very few; and

Whereas, the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ chooses to lead by example where possible:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Department of Mission through its Uprooting Racism Task Force define and carry out procedures and solicit funds to finance an effort to increase the number of clergy of color/diverse cultures/ethnicities in local church leadership within the Vermont Conference by a minimum of 10 by annual meeting 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference Ministers and the Uprooting Racism Task Force will offer to assist local churches of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ to prepare their congregations and communities to accept a pastor of color/diverse culture/ethnicity at a time when an opening in pastoral leadership may occur; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that local churches of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ will be encouraged, in their search process for new pastoral leadership, to actively and openly advertise that they solicit and encourage clergy of color/diverse cultures/ethnicities to candidate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ through its Conference Minister, Associate Conference Ministers, Associations, Placement Secretary, and all of its staff and volunteers work to identify and bring to the attention of local church active pastoral search committees clergy candidates of color/diverse cultures/ethnicities for their consideration."

Passed at the Vt. Conf. annual meeting, 07Jun2003

Presented by: Uprooting Racism Task Force, Dept. of Mission, VT Conf., UCC