

Anti-Racism Policy
Presbytery of East Iowa

The Book of Order states in F-1.0403 states:

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise. - Galatians 3:27-29

The unity of believers in Christ is reflected in the rich diversity of the Church's membership. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God unites persons through baptism regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sex, disability, geography, or theological conviction. There is therefore no place in the life of the Church for discrimination against any person. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall guarantee full participation and representation in its worship, governance, and emerging life to all persons or groups within its membership. No member shall be denied participation or representation for any reason other than those stated in this Constitution.

Racism is the opposite of what God intends for humanity. It is the rejection of the other, which is entirely contrary to the Word of God incarnate in Jesus Christ. Racism is a lie about our fellow human beings because it says that some are less than others. 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. The Presbytery of East Iowa joins in this urgent work

The Presbytery of East Iowa will:

1. Seek to welcome and be open to all people.
2. Educate ourselves, and promote educational opportunities, to seek awareness of our own behavior and biases and the impact on our community of faith and the wider community.
3. Seek and offer resources (curriculum, worship, preaching and music) which are reflective of all ethnic and racial backgrounds.
4. Study Matthew 25 materials and resources to increase our awareness of systemic racism and its impact.
5. Be proactive in seeking and encouraging the participation of Presbyterians of all backgrounds in the life and leadership of the presbytery.