

Revision to the
Constitution of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ

Approved:

To amend the Pacific Northwest Conference United Church of Christ Constitution as follows (deletions ~~erossed-out~~, additions underlined):

PREAMBLE

With God's help we seek to be thoughtful, compassionate Christians, Biblically rooted, and continually guided by the Holy Spirit to love the whole of God's creation.

We freely covenant to join together as the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ and we commit ourselves to:

- follow the call of God to us today as revealed through the Bible, in the historic Jesus, the risen Christ and the continuous revelation of the Holy Spirit;
- reach out in love and understanding to all of God's people, committed to partnership and action with the wider United Church of Christ and the ecumenical community;
- dismantling racism and expanding our understanding and awareness of the impact racism has had and continues to have on our churches, our Conference and our world;
- act as communities of nurture and care, gathering as the body of Christ for healing, fellowship, celebration and growth, building neighborhoods of justice and peace;
- share resources and opportunities for spiritual growth, education, mission, evangelism and stewardship;
- support the clergy and lay leadership that strengthens our communities and enhance the collegial relationships of clergy and laity;
- administer our corporate life responsible and ethically.

In joining together it is our prayer that we can more fully express God's will in the world.

MUTUALITY AND COLLEGIALITY

As people of God, we affirm that the Conference is formed and functions best when all its members regard each other in a collegial sense recognizing that each one's specific ministry is in fact a particular extension of the mutual ministry of all. It is our moral prerogative to acknowledge that mutuality and collegiality are impacted by the presence of racism, and the Conference is committed to dismantling racism while expanding our understanding and awareness of the impact of racism and other intersectional oppressions such as classism, homophobia/homoantagonism, transphobia, and misogyny. White supremacy and dominant culture are realities in our conference, and as an expression of equity, the conference is committed to seeking forgiveness and cultivating a culture of repentance, forgiveness, and promoting restorative justice.

We freely covenant to work together, recognizing that no one in the Conference is either superior or inferior to anyone else. Those we elect to positions within the life of the Conference are to fulfill the various functions of their office responsive to the goals and mission of the Conference. The Conference is expected to support those who we've elected to fulfill these roles.

Constitution Change as Approved May 1, 2021
Anti-Racism Commitment

~~As people of God, we affirm that the Conference is formed and functions best when all its members regard each other in a collegial sense recognizing that each one's specific ministry is in fact a particular extension of the mutual ministry of all. We acknowledge that our white dominant culture and white superiority are realities in our Conference and in our society as a whole. We freely covenant to work together, recognizing that no one in the Conference is either superior or inferior to anyone else. Those we elect to positions within the life of the Conference are to fulfill the various functions of their office responsive to the goals and mission of the Conference.~~

--End of Motion-- (no proposed changes to other parts of the Constitution)

For the following reasons:

The PNCUCC is called to work for and bring forth justice in all settings of life and church, including working to truly examine our institution and the impacts that racism has had and continues to have on our work.

Over the past two years, specific Conference moments have shaped this proposal. Here are some of these moments:

- At our Annual Meeting in 2019 a number of our clergy of color shared their personal stories and experiences of racism in church settings, this called people to action.
- At our 2019 Fall Gathering, attendees named the importance of using an anti-racist lens in all PNCUCC work. Specifically, a group was formed to focus on reparations as a way to examine and repair harm done by the white supremacist culture that is a reality in our Conference.
- Churches across our conference are engaging in conversations about race and racism in their specific contexts and participating in community actions to speak out against white supremacy.
- In June 2020 the PNCUCC Board of Directors voted to name anti-racism as a priority of the board with the following statement (based on the presented Constitution change we hoped to present at the 2020 Annual Meeting, but were unable to due to the pandemic):
 - The Board of Directors is committed to dismantling racism while expanding our understanding and awareness of the impact of racism and other intersectional oppressions such as classism, homophobia/homophobia, transphobia, and misogyny. White supremacy and dominant culture are realities in our Conference, and as an expression of equity, the Board is committed to developing and using an anti-racist lens in our work.
- Countless other important moments and experiences, spoken aloud and held inside, indicate the importance of our Conference committing to dismantling racism. Thank you for the many voices who have shaped the place we are today.

In order for the Conference to continue deepening relationships and work in covenant together truly do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God, the PNCUCC Board of Directors recommends that the 2021 Annual Meeting vote to change the PNC constitution to reflect the Conference's commitment to dismantling racism and other forms of oppression.

This is an important step along the journey of anti-racism work that our Conference is on.