

Colville UCC

Social Injustice Statement and Call to Action

As members of First Congregational United Church of Christ Colville, we remember that 400 years ago, in 1620, the Mayflower landed members of a then-Congregational Church, in America. Over the years many people of different races, religions, and thoughts have been recognized, started new lives, and built their homes in America.

We recognize the history of the UCC includes a wide array of narratives: those of myriad immigrants, formerly enslaved persons, colonists, indigenous communities, and more. Our predecessor bodies included abolitionists as well as slave owners; those who believed that racial inequality was established by God, and those who affirmed God-given racial equality with passion and fervor. Our predecessor bodies included those who pressed for the forced assimilation of indigenous peoples as well as those who stood in solidarity with and advocated on behalf of indigenous people. Our history contains the very best of American history regarding racial equality and it contains some of the worst. As a body made up of myriad traditions, theologies, languages, and geographies, our predecessor bodies reflected the society and time around them. Yet out of that complexity and contention arose something new: a movement of unity in the face of difference, our United Church of Christ. *

As we look back over 400 years, we have become aware of the disparities in our church and society based on race, religion, and thought. The First Congregational United Church of Christ Colville, UCC affirms our commitment to racial equality and inclusion, religious freedom, and thought. We recognize and affirm to do the following:

*Adapted from the Council of Conference Ministers, United Church of Christ, 2020

- Consider anew how racism and social inequities have divided us, damaged and at times destroyed our siblings in Christ, and broken the bonds of peace;
- Ask for forgiveness for our silence in the face of racial injustice and inaction;
- Take responsibility for our part in the struggle for racial justice, religious tolerance, and inclusion;
- Recognize the political, theological, and spiritual diversity of America and to heed the great commandment of Matthew 22:37 *to love God with all our souls and with all our minds and to love our neighbors as ourselves*;
- Witness to the transforming power of Jesus Christ by engaging in deep self-reflection to *remove the log from our own eye* (Matthew 7:5) so that we may become more aware of our own racism, religious intolerance, exclusion and repent of it;
- Build processes of racial inclusion and thought to allow equity in church membership, leadership, and service; and
- Engage in the sacred work of dismantling racist structures and white supremacy where we find them in the church and the community.