

Opening prayer - <https://youtu.be/1EORbL8N-R8>

To Our Beloved NHCUCC Pastors/Teachers

Anti-Racism is an action word.

- Dr. Ibram Kendi <https://youtu.be/TzuOlyyQlug>

The soul and heartbeat of anti-racism includes, love, humility, service, multigenerational education in action, and confession.

- Nicole Ellis <https://youtu.be/iL0HJ2VDSxU>

Philippians 2¹⁻⁴ If you've gotten anything at all out of following (the light of) Christ, if his love has made any difference your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

At the 2018 NHCUCC annual meeting, clergy and delegates voted that the NHCUCC would become a Racial Justice Conference. The Wilmot and Hopkinton UCCs have submitted narratives of their racial justice journeys and put two large dots of their achievements on the NHCUCC racial justice map. Blessings of the new year on you and your continued anti-racism journeys.

The Anti-Racism Ministries group (ARMg) would like to see the Conference covered with many small dots of Christ led anti-racism helping hands. We have curated an *introductory* collection of potentially transformative activities and resources for whole congregations... communities, not committees.

Share what you are doing with the ARMg so that WE can populate the Conference map

1. Engage with other churches in your Associations and enjoy this work together.
2. Add to this menu of anti-racism ideas and share with the Conference via our NHCUCC communication platforms.

3. **Keep the work going. Dismantling racism is lifelong work. Dismantling racism needs transformative change.**
 - **The UN Human Rights Office launches a report towards transformative change for racial justice and equality:**
<https://youtu.be/-2gFJ8VsoM>
4. **As you engage with these activities, center Christ and enrich the experience with relevant scriptural references. Share and teach our Conference - both clergy and Laity.**
5. **Confront the racist history of the Christian Church.**
 - **Racism in the White Church: "Preaching Black/Preaching White" with Ralph D. West and Steve Wells**
<https://youtu.be/H5x2WABQjd0>
 - **Racism in the White Church: "White Evangelical Christianity"**
<https://youtu.be/S7TQQXQOBNk>

Blessings and love, The ARMg

A Menu of Anti-Racism

ACTIONS

for the NHCUCC

Begin please, with a representation of Culture and Wisdom from your Indigenous and African descended family

https://youtu.be/XYmwwfZh_ZQ

<https://youtu.be/-sEP0-8VAow>

- 1. Display a Black Madonna, creche and /or nativity scene in your church throughout Advent and Christmas.**

Be sure your iconography represents Christ as non-European - Revelation 1:14 *-The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing flame of fire. 15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters (this is a description of how the risen Christ appeared to John at the onset of his writing the book of Revelation).*

- How Jesus Became Widely Accepted as Being White:**

<https://youtu.be/dfJCyDmTwyg>

- 3. Teach the Hebrew Bible as a story of Africa and Africans.**

- Influential Black People in the Bible:**

<https://youtu.be/4llm9L-qRxo>

- 4. Lead your congregation and consecrate graves of enslaved people buried in your church cemeteries.**

- What did you learn about the enslaved people?**
- Who was the enslaver?**

- Create and implement a service of music, scripture, poetry, and dance...of honor.
 - Invite other faith communities and the public.
 - Share stories and photos via the conference communication platforms.
5. At the 32nd General Synod, the UCC passed a resolution to honor the United Nations resolution to recognize people of African descent. Take special offerings when using content by People of African descent. Donate to a nonprofit group that is engaged in the work of anti-racism.
 6. Learn who wrote the hymns you are singing and acknowledge the possible colonizer source. Seek out sacred music from other ethnic groups and cultures.
 - Jimmy Cliff, Psalm 137 v1-4 Rivers of Babylon:
<https://youtu.be/gnUKcEwT7NI>
 7. Use the children's book section, *Belonging from the Beginning*, of the ARMg bibliography, and introduce stories of marginalized people groups, authored/illustrated by Black, Brown, and Golden people from across the world. The ARMg bibliography is available at the ARMg website:

<https://nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/justice-witness-ministry/racial-justice-mission-group>.
 8. Using *Belonging from the Beginning* (see previous item), develop a menu of enrichment activities and adventures that are related to the story books.
 - *Black Boy Be You!*
<https://youtu.be/tgyYiHA31rk>

9. Include children and start seedlings of vegetables that originated in Africa.

- ***Genesis¹¹ Then God said, “Let The land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so.***
- ***10 Vegetables You Can Regrow from Kitchen Scraps:***
<https://youtu.be/KtmyE12e8LI>
- ***Learn how enslaved Africans found ways to transport food across the middle passage:***
<https://youtu.be/7wsEdxt1Icon>

10. ***Substitute children’s books and young adult literature with fewer and simpler concepts for intellectually challenging adult selections. This creates opportunities for multigenerational sacred conversation.***

- ***Harriet Powers’ From Slave to Artist Reading:***
<https://youtu.be/sr-ZJFUm2wk>

11. Find seminary courses and books that explore Black Liberation Theology, Womanist Theology, Christianity in the Indigenous people groups, and other Christologies. Share new theological wisdom on the NHCUCC’s Facebook page and the Weekly News. Bring new insights to the pulpit. ***God has not given us a spirit of fear, but the spirit of power, of courage and resolution, to meet difficulties and dangers; the spirit of love which will carry us through opposition.” 2 Timothy 1:7***

- ***Black Liberation Theology: An Introduction:***
<https://youtu.be/KNxe8V8IPxQ>

- **Keep Your Hand on the Plow:**
<https://youtu.be/-J46HlbbC94>
- **Nikki Giovanni — Nikki Rosa:**
<https://youtu.be/H3X2EwKgOk0>

12. Sign up for, and invite members to join you in, Sacred Conversations to End Racism (SC2ER) with Rev Dr. Velda Love. Information about this course is on the UCC website. Always share what you learn.

- **Sacred Conversations to End Racism - United Church of Christ (ucc.org)**

13. *John 7²⁴ Judge not according to the appearance but judge righteous judgment.* Stand in solidarity with your Indigenous, Hispanic, Asian, and African descended siblings. Subsidize registration fees as necessary and send members of your congregation to events such as the Black Lives Matter Gala in Nashua and in Manchester and in the seacoast.

- **<https://www.blmseacoast.org/>**

14. Volunteer to help at events sponsored by non-Europeans (BIPOC fest, NAACP meetings, African Caribbean Fest, etc.).

- **New England BIPOC Fest:**
<https://www.wmur.com/article/new-england-bipoc-fest-celebrates-diversity-across-the-region-nh/41378398>
- **A Conversation with Latinos on Race:**
<https://youtu.be/tLLCHbCgJbM>

15. If possible, share your anti-racism voice /sermons (via viewing, listening, and text) on the New Hampshire Conference Facebook page and in the weekly news.
16. Reach out to a Black church (e.g. Zion UCC in Cleveland, Trinity UCC in Chicago, Riverside UCC in NYC, Baptist Churches in Portsmouth, and Nashua) and establish authentic relationships. Share stories with NHCUCC. *Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and tenderhearted to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.*
17. Host the Sacred Ally Quilt Ministry (SAQM) for a sacred conversation with Rev Koyama and Dr. Ward.
 - BPS the documentary *Stitch Breathe Speak*:
www.stitchbreathespeak.com
18. Put your prayers for racial justice and anti-racism into textile and thread. Make a quilt for Sacred Ally Quilt Ministry with themes of resistance, beauty, resilience, prayers for justice and cultural celebration of marginalized people groups. Contact Rev Koyama or Dr. Ward – saqmquilts@gmail.com
19. Use services by individuals and companies owned by the marginalized.
20. Respond immediately and visibly to racialized violence (both institutional and individual) by messaging on your reader boards. Create memorials on your church lawns. This can be an intergenerational community effort.

- **From Slave Patrols to Today: What the History of Policing Teaches Us About the Present:**
<https://youtu.be/ep7y6FM7yuQ>

21. Begin to explore history and origins of racism

- **The Racist Origins of U.S. Law:**
<https://youtu.be/FFebp7GZeHY>
- **Slave Codes:**
<https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/an-act-concerning-servants-and-slaves-1705>
- **Black Codes:**
<https://youtu.be/HvWVX84RBt4>
- **Jim Crow:**
https://youtu.be/2_gOtZ--4WE
- **Ugly History: Japanese American incarceration camps:**
<https://youtu.be/hI4NoVWq87M>
- **The Chinese Exclusion Act | Inside Look:**
https://youtu.be/-v3_y3EbRIU
- **The Chinese Exclusion Act Explained:**
<https://youtu.be/JOgljSI0FrM>
- **The Part of History You've Always Skipped:**
<https://youtu.be/j4kl2h3iotA>

22. Attend Educational events offered by ARMg. Mark Charles will be at The Church of Christ at Dartmouth College on March 26, 2023, at 3pm.

- **Indigenous Arts Protocols:**
<https://youtu.be/c6VuHJi6O0Q>

- Indigenous in Plain Sight:
https://youtu.be/s3FL9uhTH_s
- The Spiritual Practice of the Doctrine of Discovery:
https://youtu.be/J_qop7tNvh8

23. Develop an impactful, meaningful, and memorable land Acknowledgement and confess our appropriation, colonization, and historical and continuing abuse of the Indigenous family. Here is a resource for that work

- Native Land Acknowledgement Symposium (2022):
<https://youtu.be/FdHuuq0O3Js>
- Why I Reject Indigenous Land Acknowledgments:
<https://youtu.be/M8AJytlpCq4>

24. Refer to the attached Addendum I. - Implementation Plan for the NHCUCC sponsored Resolution to Recognize the *UN International Decade for People of African Descent*

25. Consider the wisdom and study the many resources from our National UCC

- The UCC has been denouncing racism in numerous resolutions since 1963. In 2003 the General Synod adopted a resolution calling for the UCC to be an Anti-Racist Church. Read, study, and adopt in your ministry settings the 2003 resolution:
[Anti-Racist Church - United Church of Christ \(ucc.org\)](https://ucc.org)
- Refer to the attached Addendum II. – UCC Restorative Justice Resources & Guidelines

ADDENDUM I

A Resolution to Recognize the United Nations International Decade For People of African Descent

Give us all the humility to listen carefully to those who have been silenced so that we may, in this way, collaborate with all that is divine Ideas and Resources to help you honor the resolution which calls us to amplify the voices of People of African descent.

- I. Creating Community for People of African Descent**
 - a. Seek out institutional relationships with majority Black churches in your community, even if they are not UCC**
 - b. If Black communities share your church space, collaborate with these neighbors. Alternatively, open your doors and invite the Black community to access your space for gatherings events and celebrations.**
 - c. Use Zoom to support and enable African descended people in their efforts to build communities across UCC churches and Conferences.**
 - d. Use UCC resources to seek Pastors from the diaspora to lead these groups.**
 - e. Recognize, collaborate, and enjoy cultural differences as part of your faith practice.**
 - f. Do a pulpit share or exchange with a Black Pastor.**

II. Liturgy

- a. Emancipate your liturgical practices from the constraints of the “bulletin.”**
- b. Accept the invitation to be influenced by Black churches even if they are outside the UCC.**
- c. Place yourself within another context where Black voices lead.**
- d. Learn to read the Bible from the margins. Read the Hebrew Bible as a story of Africa. It was written on papyrus by African prophets - Dr. Theron Williams Describes Ways the Bible is Black History:
<https://youtu.be/PNEYWBiOLSs>**
- e. Honor Africa as the cradle of Christianity**

III. Music

- a. To mitigate cultural appropriation and to honor our African-descended siblings, make time during worship to provide meaningful historical and religious context for music with African origins and Black tradition (spirituals, gospel, jazz).**
- b. Seek and consult with church musicians of African Descent and refine your performance practices.**
- c. With permission and for authenticity, use recordings by people of African descent .**
- d. Reserve part of your music budget to hire African descended musicians for a worship service.**

IV. Youth and Outdoor Ministries

- a. Build your church libraries with books for young children and teenagers with stories by African-descended authors /illustrators with diverse characters and protagonists.**
- b. Refer to the curated/annotated online booklist, *Belonging from the Beginning* created by the Anti-Racism Ministries Group of the New Hampshire Conference.**
- c. As you find more books, add them to this list, and share. There is always new literature.**
- d. Expose children to African-descended visual artists (any medium): dancers, story tellers and musicians for interactive demonstration and teaching.**

V. Homiletics

- a. Welcome Black preachers into your pulpits.**
- b. Help create a lectionary resource (endorsed at the national level) that centers Black voices, history, African Bible, Black liberation, and Womanist theology and diverse Christologies.**

VI. Art and Iconography.

- a. Be open to symbolic power and the durability of art of any modality (visual, sculptured, poetry, dance, fabric, etc.).**

- b. Encourage the creation and facilitate the exhibition of art with themes of resistance, beauty, resilience, prayers for justice and cultural celebration of African descended people.**
- c. Collaborate across the UCC and bring an art installation to the denomination as a national effort.**

Break the silence

Bring love to this work

Outlive the decade

God is a verb

ADDENDUM II

UCC Guidelines



