



UNPACKING **RACISM**

Laity Convocation 2020

Anti-Racism Task Force Focus Document January 2020

Scriptural Basis:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” - Mat. 22:36-39

ACST Strategic Goal

Congregations will strive to identify, challenge and change values, attitudes, organizational structures, policies and practices that perpetuate systemic racism by engaging in:

- Prayerful self-reflection to identify racist attitudes and grow in relationship with Jesus and love of our neighbor.
- Understanding the impact of racism, the concept of unconscious bias, how race shapes one’s place and understanding of society, and the idea of privilege.
- Peaceful yet active, prophetic resistance to racism in church and society.
- Equitable sharing of power by ensuing meaningful access to positions in leadership.

Antiracism Task Force Purpose Statement

We will:

- provide guidance through Biblical, fact-based, and Spirit-led training, engagement, and actionable steps toward antiracism.
- journey toward healing, reparation and reconciliation by fostering understanding of our complicity in implicit bias, white privilege and systemic racism.
- empower local churches to become antiracist advocates within their church and communities.

Why?

Because racism is incompatible with Christian teaching and it still exists in our society and our churches.

How?

By creating an “Antiracism Learning Path” with multiple entry points to engage local churches and members in understanding and dismantling systemic racism.

What?

We will provide training, engagement, Biblical teaching, support, and a multitude of other learning opportunities to change attitudes and behavior.