

United Church of Christ Witnessing “A White Supremacy Free Zone”

(A Resolution of Witness; Requires a two-thirds majority of delegates voting for passage)

Submitted By: San Diego Christian Fellowship Congregational
The Table: United Church of Christ of La Mesa
Mission Hills United Church of Christ San Diego

SUMMARY

This resolution proposes a witness that will help to challenge the resurgence and comfort of the idolizing of whiteness. It calls for houses of worship, white United Church of Christ congregations, UCC congregations and institutions in general to declare their communities and settings as “A White Supremacy Free Zone” to take away the quiet existence of racism.

1. Leviticus 19.4 says, “Do not turn to idols or make cast images for yourselves: I
2. am the Lord your God.”

3. We exist in a world where there is idol worship. An idol is an object made into
4. something of extreme devotion; a person or thing that is declared sacred or holy;
5. a representation of an object or person as something with perceived powers; a
6. false god; something that great reverence is placed upon and is the object of
7. worship. Many things that surround us are idols.

8. For our purposes here we are focused upon the idol called white supremacy.
9. Being white does not possess any inherent superiority other than the superiority
10. that is bestowed upon the concept by force, laws, myth, institutions, and ethos.
11. Being white has no power other than the powers maintained through brute force,
12. the establishment of laws and traditions that maintain institutions, and the
13. accepted narratives used to advance and affirm so-called superiority.

14. As people of faith, rooted in the gospel of justice, we are admonished to tear
15. down the idols that keep us from the simple but true worship of God. Jesus
16. teaches his followers, in the wisdom words of old, to “love God with all your
17. heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind and to love your neighbor
18. as yourself.” We are taught to strip away the things that hinder us in relating to
19. one another with respect, regard, and sacred love. We are being taught to rid
20. ourselves of the idols created by human beings for the purposes of control and
21. power. Racism and white supremacy are some of those idols constructed for the
22. purposes of power and greed.

23. In this historic moment we are faced with the idols of white idolatry, racism,
24. hatred, and greed. Hatred has been nurtured and fostered in these last few years
25. to such a degree that if we thought we were rendering it to a relic of the past we
26. were sorrowfully mistaken. White idolatry has been elevated to levels of such a
27. grave danger, and its worshippers have been aggressively engaged in a crusade
28. to raise up the idols that it is apparent that something must be done differently to
29. challenge white idolatry. We are proposing a witness that will help to challenge
30. the resurgence and comfort of the idolizing of whiteness.

31. “Black Lives Matter” has become a mantra attempting to stir awake the white
32. community and invite non-Black allies to stand in solidarity with the struggles of
33. Blackness, but in spite of the declaration that “Black Lives Matter,” the atrocities
34. of white Idolatry, racial profiling, and extra-judicial killings continue. Black Lives
35. Matter banners have been ripped down and vandalized at white houses of
36. worship, and white idolatrous groups have attacked Black houses of worship for
37. bearing the banners and these acts makes it apparent that to declare “Black
38. Lives Matter” is not enough!

39. While we genuinely appreciate expressions of solidarity and witness, whites in all
40. their liberal and progressive ideology and theology have not effectively
41. challenged the infrastructure or comfort of white idolatry. It is important that if
42. white idolatry is to be challenged, given that it is a white problem, whites must put
43. some skin in the game and take on a different kind of commitment and posture.
44. Though it is important for non-Black allies to express solidarity, it is more
45. important that white communities and houses of worship challenge the white
46. community, and white enclaves with expressions that will bring discomfort, cause
47. congregations and people to truly grapple with whiteness and white idolatry by
48. declaring in banners and other public expressions in communities where whites
49. live and worship that this is “A White Supremacy Free Zone.”

50. When you think about where United Church of Christ congregations exist, it is
51. generally, in white neighborhoods – suburban, urban and rural – and those white
52. enclaves where the bulk of UCC congregations exist have a tokenistic color mix
53. at best. Therefore, for the white community and white congregations to begin the
54. deconstruction of white idolatry it must be forced into the discussion, making
55. well-meaning white institutions and people to grapple with their own communities
56. and the aid and comfort offered to white idolatry. To raise the issue, and to make
57. the issue not about Blacks but about whites is how white idolatry/supremacy is
58. challenged and stands any chance of being deconstructed.
59.

60. ***Therefore Be it Resolved*** that the Southern California Nevada Conference calls
for houses of worship, white United Church of Christ congregations, UCC
congregations and institutions in general to declare their communities and settings
as “A White Supremacy Free Zone” is to take away the quiet existence of racism
and white idolatry and forces the issue into the communities in which UCC houses
of worship exist. Declaring “We are confronting white supremacy” and publicly
expressed forces the discussion and takes away the comfortable existence of white
idolatry.

FUNDING

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available. There is no financial guarantee of any kind other than the annual budget.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Conference Minister, in consultation with the Board of Directors and appropriate Conference staff, will determine the implementing body or staff members. The implementing body or staff is

responsible for developing the strategy and program designed to implement the Resolution.

Acknowledgements:

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