

Westminster's Anti-Racism Statement

Westminster Presbyterian Church of Richardson Bay in Tiburon, California, affirms the worth and dignity of all people.ⁱ We are all created in God's image, and in Christ we are all children of God.ⁱⁱ Just as Jesus welcomed everyone into his fellowship, even those who traditionally had been marginalized, we welcome all people to our congregation regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, socio-economic status, or political beliefs.ⁱⁱⁱ

We acknowledge the severe and lasting impacts of racism on people of color – and on African Americans, in particular.^{iv} Anti-Black racism has deep roots in the history of the United States.^v Today, anti-Black racism reveals itself in mass incarceration, instances of police brutality, barriers to voting, economic and wealth inequality, and acts of race-based violence and hate.^{vi} We also acknowledge that racism has led us away from living the basic Christian truth that we are called to love all just as God loves all people without exception. Our choice to align ourselves with love requires that we actively and tirelessly work against all racism wherever we can, however we can.^{vii}

We continue to fight to end this systematic and persistent racism. We are committed to providing a safe place for all to explore the Christian faith, and to deepen relationships with one another and with God. As the Presbytery has stated, "We challenge ourselves to see systems and structures that disadvantage and oppress others – that stand in the way of God's kingdom coming 'on earth as it is in heaven,' and are willing to take part in seeking solutions."^{viii} We embrace our diversity in all its forms, and celebrate our unity as the body of Christ. Living out our Christian calling, we welcome the presence, gifts, and companionship of all who wish to join us on the journey of faith.

We continue to recognize and dismantle racism and unconscious bias in our own hearts and minds, in the institution of the church, and in the broader culture. We call on all members, and join the call for all congregations, to take action toward these goals.^{ix}

ⁱ See "Statement of Inclusion," First Presbyterian Church of Petaluma (Oct. 20, 2022), accessible at <https://shorturl.at/OEjIg> ("First Presbyterian Church of Petaluma affirms the worth and dignity of all people.").

ⁱⁱ See id. ("We are all created in God's image, and in Christ we are all children of God.").

ⁱⁱⁱ See id. ("Just as Jesus welcomed everyone into his fellowship, even those who traditionally had been marginalized, we welcome all people to our congregation regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, socio-economic status, or political beliefs.").

^{iv} See “A Statement Affirming Redwoods Presbytery’s Commitment to Anti-racism,” Presbytery of the Redwoods (July 15, 2020), accessible at <https://shorturl.at/0omWM> (“While recognizing that racism victimizes many people of color, we acknowledge its unique impact on the Black community.”).

^v See id. (“Anti-Black racism is deeply embedded in the history, culture, and society of the United States.”).

^{vi} See id. (“Today, anti-Black racism finds expression in mass incarceration, instances of police brutality, barriers to voting, economic and wealth inequality, and acts of race-based violence and hate.”).

^{vii} See id. (“Our choice to align ourselves with love requires that we actively and tirelessly work against anti-Black racism wherever we can, however we can.”).

^{viii} See id.

^{ix} See id. (“We continue to recognize and dismantle racism and unconscious bias in our own hearts and minds, in the institution of the church, and in the broader culture. [We] call all congregations to take action toward these goals.”).