

First Presbyterian Church



Resolution of Repentance

Whereas, racism is an expression of the sin of partiality (James 2:1, ff.; Acts 10:34, ff.); and

Whereas, the iniquity of preceding generations has a covenantal relationship to subsequent generations (Exodus 34:6-7; Numbers 14:18; Psalm 106:6; Lamentations 5:7); and

Whereas, repentance is a biblical means for receiving God's grace and mercy in Jesus Christ in such circumstances (Leviticus 26:40; Jeremiah 14:20; Nehemiah 9:2, ff.); and

Whereas, the 44th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, on June 23rd, 2016, adopted Overture 43, "Pursuing Racial Reconciliation and the Advance of the Gospel;" and

Whereas, among the statements of this overture is the advice that the provisions of BCO 1-2 and 38-1 "provide potent and readily available means for dealing with ones who have sinned or continue to sin in these areas," and

Whereas, a thorough examination of the actions of First Presbyterian Church of Montgomery, Alabama during the Civil Rights era (beginning mid 1950's) and continuing into the 1980's, shows numerous instances of public actions of the sin of racism (see: <http://www.firstpreschantilly.com/repentance>);

Therefore be it resolved, that we, the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Montgomery, Alabama, acting as the shepherds of this congregation for whom we will have to give an account (1 Peter 5:1-4; Hebrews 13:17), do acknowledge that God is just to visit the iniquity of the forefathers of this church on the current church gathered here in Christ's name; and

Be it further resolved, that we hereby repent for our sins and the sins of this Church in previous generations, in general a failing unwillingness to minister the gospel to the community in which our church resides, and in particular sins of racisms perpetrated during the Civil Rights era and following, trusting that in Jesus Christ there is rich mercy and cleansing for First Presbyterian Church of Montgomery, Alabama; and

giving the gospel away ... for the joy of His glory ~ Rom 1:16

Be it further resolved, we commit to actively seeking the Lord to lead us in bringing forth continuing fruits of repentance (Matthew 3:8; Luke 3:8; Acts 26:20), particularly through prayerful study of the advice of the 44th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America in Overture 43, Recommendation 1 “A Pastoral Letter on Racism and the Gospel To the churches of the Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley (PCA);” and

Be it further resolved, that we will henceforth seek to actively minister to all in our community, regardless of ethnicity or socio-economic status, including: ministering the gospel of Jesus Christ to unbelievers from all ethnic and socio-economic groups in our community, and in listening, learning from, and serving with sister churches in our community who are effectively ministering the gospel to all ethnicities and socio-economic groups in Montgomery, as far as the Lord will prosper our faith.

Signed this day, the 21st of August, 2016, by the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Montgomery, Alabama:

\\ Signatures of Session \\