**Becoming an Anti-Racist Congregation Work Group
Meeting Notes July 1, 2021**

Present: Sarah Lynne Gerson, Darryl Searuggs, Chris Wilson, Al Walker, and April Johnson

Discussion – Review of the groups desired components for marks of an anti-racist congregation.

* A statement is needed from the church board – important to vocalize what you are committed to do.
* Use the Region’s statement – Region’s commitment to AR to embolden the congregation’s commitment.
* Encourage congregations to make a statement by using the resolutions, founding statements, and documents.
* Are we asking congregations to make a statement or adopt a statement? Could be an either/or statement. Either Reconciliation Ministry could have a template or the Region’s statement could be used to craft their statement to be an anti-racist congregation.
* When an individual joins church, they make a confession of Christ.
* Membership training includes a confession of adopting an anti-racist identity. Making a confession of faith around the AR identity. How do we help church’s embrace this identity, possibly through the affirmation of faith?
* Does the pro-reconciling/anti-racist denomination flesh out in our work?
* SL – more excited about empowering the congregational level toward embodying the marks of being an anti-racist identity. It would be helpful to provide a list of concrete markers for them. For example, are your reading Willie Jennings history or white historians (or both) for sermon preparation. It could be an inclusive list but not exhaustive list of resources.
* Use the advantage of the calendar – it is nice to have a reminder of these founding documents and identity statements be on the calendar. For example, quarterly or every two months to say or do the things the statements claim.
* Key dates we emphasize as a way to embrace voices beyond your own heritage background, i.e. preaching, songs, liturgical around those cultural standards.
* Timely – take advantage of coming back to in-person worship. Connect the small group and house group format to exploring the anti-racist identity.
* Theology incorporated into daily life of the congregation. Helps people to see the connection to our beliefs, for example, about sin and adds to our current understanding of sin and theology.
* Make AR identity clear and intentional part of new member education.
* Let us look at the marks of an anti-racist congregation as a progressive step process. Might we use Chris’ recommended ‘Marks’ document as a template.

**List of Marks of an Anti-Racist Congregation where we have synergies/similiarities:**

* Something to read, watch, do, and pray.
* Relationship-building
* Progressive Education for laity and clergy – not getting the same training each time. Different levels for each training components.
* BIPOC Leadership and financial support
* Action-oriented outcome to include legislative and issue-based advocacy (policy)
* Audits of foundational documents of congregation

Homework before **next meeting on July 14th at 7:30 AM MDT; 8:30 AM CDT; 9:30 AM EDT**

1. Create your list of marks shared by all of members of this working group.
2. Add your non-negotiable marks to the list, if you see them not listed.
3. Review the resolutions in light of your recommended marks as supporting rationale for your recommended marks or the need for a progressive process of becoming an anti-racist congregation.

Zoom link for next meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84093168016?pwd=NU5OWmdJclpzcjY5a09tekUwd1Q5UT09>