



Louisville, 24 August 2018

Dear Partners in God's mission,

At the 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), held from June 16-23 in St. Louis, Missouri, the Assembly overwhelmingly approved **Overture 070 Responding to Racist Nationalism**. This prophetic and timely Overture directed the Presbyterian Mission Agency to communicate to all of the Global Partners of Presbyterian World Mission that:

1. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) of the PC(USA) strongly condemns the unjust, racist disparagement of people and entire nations, promoted by politicians and government officials at all levels in the mistaken effort to place "America First." As Christians, our call is to bring to "all nations" (Mt. 28:19) the good news that God loves all people equally. We call upon our national leaders to lead by that principle. We pray that God may open the minds and hearts of the American people to understand that the real problems they face result from real causes and not from the presence of demonized "others." We commit to working with people of good will, regardless of political or religious affiliation, in a collective effort to solve the real problems facing our nation and the world. We ask forgiveness from those who have been hurt by hateful rhetoric and harmed by unjust government policies. We acknowledge our responsibility and urge our elected officials to speak out against hate and "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly" with God (Mic. 6:8).
2. Direct the Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) to send this resolution to the president of the United States and to each United States senator and representative.
3. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency, through Presbyterian World Mission, to send this resolution to world mission partners.
4. Encourage PC(USA) pastors and congregations to publicize this resolution in their communities and with officials of local and state government.

You can read more about it here: <https://www.pc-biz.org/#!/search/3000385>

The Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. continues to speak out forcefully against racism in all its forms and manifestations. We seek to equip our leaders and members to recognize racism and to work both in local communities and at the national level against personal and institutional, systemic racism. Together we need to find ways to resist racism and challenge all public discourse that cultivates racism, intolerance and xenophobia.

We are sadly mindful of the fact that racism also exists in other countries and may represent a pastoral challenge to your church as you seek to be faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If your church is addressing racism, we would be deeply grateful to hear from you how this issue manifests itself in your context and how you are responding.

We have much to learn from you and are thankful to be your partners in God's mission.

Yours in Christ,

Valdir França
Area Coordinator,
Latin America & the Caribbean

