

Antiracism Policy of First Presbyterian Church of Davenport
Approved by Session: 2-17-2025

Structural Racism is defined as “the normalizing of racism within institutions and structures. Once racism is structural and institutional (as it is in the United States), it creates ongoing, persistent inequality. Inequality occurs in access to money, land, housing, education, health, information, and social power. Because inequality is a part of the structures and institutions that we interact with every day, it often goes unquestioned and unchallenged by most of society or the dominant culture.”ⁱ

At this time in history in the United States structural racism not only impacts people of African descent, but any non-Caucasian ethnic group, including but not limited to those of LatinX, Asian, and Indigenous ethnicities. Although the church often affirms that structural racism is the opposite of what God intends for humanity, we admit that the structural racism and racial prejudice that has a strong history in the United States, often transfers from the secular world into the life and legacy of the church.

First Presbyterian Church of Davenport affirms the statement made by the Presbyterian Church (USA)’s document entitled *Facing Racism: A Vision of the Intercultural Community*: “Because of our biblical understanding of who God is and what God intends for humanity, the PC(USA) must stand against, and work against racism. Antiracist effort is not optional for Christians. It is an essential aspect of Christian discipleship, without which we fail to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.”ⁱⁱ

Although work has been done to end structural racism, we acknowledge there is more work to be done. Therefore, in our efforts to create a church where “all persons are treated with respect, all gifts are valued and encouraged, knowing diversity is a gift to be valued,”ⁱⁱⁱ First Presbyterian Church of Davenport commits to:

- Seek to welcome and be open to all people.
- Continue to acknowledge and repent for the harm done in past to either create or maintain structural racism;
- Provide anti-racism and equality training for our leaders and congregation to encourage education, understanding, and growth;
- Recognize the community and lands in which we serve, reside, and worship as the unceded homelands of indigenous peoples. We also acknowledge that we, as a church, have been the beneficiary of this historic reality.
- Acknowledge the wonderful diversity in God’s creation and the diversity of where we serve, reside, and worship.
- Strive to work with the Nominating Committee to ensure that our elected leadership is representative of the diversity of our body.

ⁱ What is Structural Racism? The Presbyterian Church (USA) Presbyterian Mission. Accessed April 25, 2024.
<https://www.pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/matthew-25/three-core-pillars>

ⁱⁱ Facing Racism: A Vision of the Intercultural Community, 222nd General Assembly (2016)
<https://www.pcusa.org/sites/default/files/2024-11/facing-racism-study-guide.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ “Racial Equity,” Presbyterian Women’s website, accessed January 30, 2024,
https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/build-community/antiracism/