



A hearing on this resolution will take place on Friday, June 3, 2022 at 11:00 am in Hayden Hall. Engage with the team to fully understand the resolution.

Online Link to Participate

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83565763029?pwd=NGoveXJxYnJ6Y1p6bGo5Q25acXUrUT09>

See you then!

Full Zoom Instructions

11:00 am – 12:00 pm Anti-Racism Resolution Hearing

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83565763029?pwd=NGoveXJxYnJ6Y1p6bGo5Q25acXUrUT09>

Meeting ID: 835 6576 3029

Passcode: 337880

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Resolution to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for Descendants of American Chattel Slavery

Submitted to the 59th Annual Gathering of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference (2022), prepared by the Indiana-Kentucky Conference Justice & Witness Ministries Anti-Racism Task Force

WHEREAS the institution of slavery is internationally recognized as a crime for which there is no statute of limitations.

WHEREAS uncompensated labor was demanded from enslaved Africans and their descendants for more than two centuries on United States soil.

WHEREAS reparations is a process to remember, repair, restore, make amends for wrongs, reconcile, and can never be singularly reducible to monetary terms; is an historical reckoning involving acknowledgment that an offense against humanity was committed and the victims have not received justice.

WHEREAS the ministry of the One we follow, Jesus, speaking in the tradition of the prophets of Israel that was his tradition, called his followers to a project of political transformation against Empire and toward restorative justice, including the forgiveness of debts and equitable distribution of resources, as it was in the prayer he taught his followers, "On Earth as it is in Heaven."

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ affirms in its bylaws that the Church in all its expressions are encouraged to speak prophetically on matters of justice, power, and public policy; to confront expressions of injustice and alienation in the Church and in society.

WHEREAS at the 23rd General Synod of the United Church of Christ (2001), the Synod adopted the Resolution, "A Call for Study on Reparations for Slavery."

WHEREAS at the 24th General Synod of the United Church of Christ (2003), the study and discussion guide, "Reparations: A Process for Repairing the Breach," was presented.

WHEREAS the late Rep. Conyers Jr. (D MI-13) introduced to the 115th Congress of the United States (2017-2018), H.R. 40, a bill to study and create proposals for Reparations that incorporated the latest legal and societal discussions concerning the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade and focused on reparations remedies.

WHEREAS Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D TX-18) introduced into the first session of the 117th Congress (2021-2022), H.R. 40, *Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act*.

WHEREAS the stated purpose of H.R. 40 is to address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865, and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent *de jure* and *de facto* racial and economic discrimination against African Americans, and the lingering negative effects of slavery on living African Americans and society, to make recommendations to the Congress of the United States on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

WHEREAS in April 2021, an article prepared by the United Church of Christ supported H.R. 40, “UCC Leaders Laud Historic Legislation on Reparations, Heading to House Vote” <<https://www.ucc.org/ucc-leaders-laud-historic-legislation-on-reparations-heading-to-house-vote/z>>.

WHEREAS the Reparatory Justice and Reparations ministry of the United Church of Christ launches a new interactive educational web-based platform with resources in Spring 2022 with webinars and toolkits for the ongoing work leading to strategies with recommendations implementing long-term reparations plan within the United Church of Christ.

WHEREAS the “Resolution to Dismantle Systemic Racism” was adopted at the 57th Annual Gathering of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church (2020) that called for the creation of an Indiana-Kentucky Conference Justice and Witness Ministries Anti-Racism Task Force (hereafter: Task Force) comprised of at least one member (lay or clergy) from each Association for the purpose of studying and understanding the institutional structures within our associations that still promote, consciously or unconsciously, systemic racism.

WHEREAS the Task Force is called on to develop a conference-wide action plan designed to address issues of racism in our churches, in our Associations, and in Association and Conference committees.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ publicly proclaim its support for H.R. 40 or like legislation that mirrors Section 3 of H.R. 40 “Establishment and Duties” (a) Establishment: There is established the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the Task Force urges the denomination of the United Church of Christ at the National Setting to publicly proclaim its support of H.R. 40

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the Task Force organize education, discussion, and direct action opportunities for the member churches, Board of Directors, and staff of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ to further a ministry of Reparatory Justice

and Reparations, and when appropriate, partnering with the United Church of Christ National setting and available resources.

FUNDING: The funding for the witness and study of Reparatory Justice and Reparations to be recommended by the Task Force and determined by the Board of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ.