



## Resolution on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Unity Worldwide Ministries

Juneteenth 2021

An official statement from Unity Worldwide Ministries:

*Unity Worldwide Ministries stands for anti-racism, i.e., we are opposed to racial hatred, racial violence, bias, systemic racism, and the oppression of people of color. We stand for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for people who are marginalized because of color. No individual or group should be made to live in fear or excluded from society. Recent events in the United States and the world remind us that violent repression, prejudices, injustices, and inequalities towards people of color are embedded in societies, from social structures to institutions to cultures. Unity chooses to be more aware and take positive action in dismantling systemic racism and the social structures that support injustice and prejudice, and we raise awareness throughout our membership, churches, and centers.*

**WHEREAS:** Unity stands for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for people of color. Our second principle states: "Human beings have a spark of divinity within them, the Christ spirit within. Their very essence is of God, and therefore they are also inherently good." This principle applies to all people regardless of color; and

**WHEREAS:** We are fully committed to Unity Worldwide Ministries being an ambassador for diversity, equity, and inclusion in our world and an example through our actions in the Unity Movement; and

**WHEREAS:** Unity Worldwide Ministries Board of Trustees acknowledges that there has been and is systemic racism in Unity. We acknowledge and accept responsibility for the impact that our history with racism has made upon our Black and Brown friends, colleagues, congregants, students, employees, and patrons—both past and present. We commit to eradicating any and all systems, policies, and practices that would in any way replicate our past mistakes or reproduce an environment that discriminates against or is inhospitable toward people on the basis of race, color, or ethnicity; now therefore be it,

**RESOLVED:** That based on Unity's fifth principle of taking action, which states: "Knowing and understanding the laws of life—also called truth—is not enough. A person must live the truth that he or she knows;" we commit to the following actions:

- To reflect on an ongoing basis, diversity, equity, and inclusion in our Unity Worldwide Ministries Board of Trustees.
- To commit to reinforce our policy of non-discrimination by adopting and instituting best practices for ensuring that all qualified applicants and candidates are given full consideration for any, and all positions, without respect to race, ethnicity, culture, or color.
- To ongoing robust mandatory staff leadership development and education committed to building a culturally competent, anti-racist community of leaders and allies. Our bold initiative will address trainings on Implicit Bias, Cultural Competence, White Fragility, and Becoming an Anti-Racist, along with ongoing training and education that positions Unity Worldwide Ministries to be on the leading edge of building consciously awake thought leaders, committed to dismantling systemic racism and building the Beloved Community.

- To develop and disseminate principle-centered educational programs and curricula for use in our centers, spiritual communities, study groups and churches that equip Unity ministers, spiritual leaders, teachers, and laity with the information, inspiration, and resources necessary to detect and dissolve systemic racism within themselves and build healthy diverse, equitable, and inclusive communities. These materials will take many forms including a wide offering of online webinars.
- To allocate monetary resources to the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2021 to continue the work that the UWM Board has done in the 12-week class on racial diversity and the continued recognition of an inherent culture of white privilege with a racial equity consultant to assist us in developing a more organization-wide permanent response to the issue and needs for increased diversity, equity, and inclusion, and be it,

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, we are committed to moving beyond neutrality and to fully acknowledging that Black Lives Matter, too, and we are committed to demonstrating our sensitivity and understanding of this basic Unity tenet by no longer colluding in racism.



UWM Board Chair, John McMahon



UWM Executive Director, Rev. Shad Groverland



UWM 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Rev. Sharon Ketchum



UWM 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Rev. Doris Hoskins



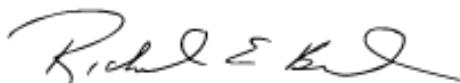
UWM Board Treasurer, Rev. Valerie Mansfield



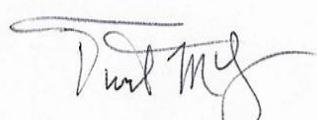
UWM Board Secretary & Chair Emeritus, Tim Alderman



UWM Chair Emeritus, Rev. Toni Fish



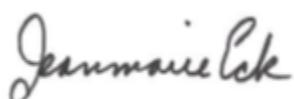
UWM Chair Emeritus, Rev. Richard Bunch



UWM Board Member, Rev. Tim Lytle



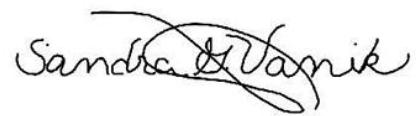
UWM Board Member, LUT Paul Skehen



UWM Board Member, Rev. Jeanmarie Eck



UWM Board Member, Rev. Sylvia Sumter



UWM Board Member, Rev. Sandra Vanik



Keeper of the Flame, Rev. Paulette Pipe