1 2	A RESOLUTION OF IMPLEMENTATION CALLING FOR ANTI-RACISM AND RACIAL JUSTICE TRAINING FOR CLERGY		
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4	Submitted by the Racial Justice Ministries Team of the CT Conference UCC, the Spring Glen		
5	Church UCC in Hamden, the First Congregational Church of Guilford, & Immanuel		
6	Congregational Church in Hartford		
7			
8	WHEREAS, Jesus instructed us in the gospels to reconcile with our neighbor before		
9	approaching God's altar (Matt:5:24); and to remove the log from our own eye before		
10	removing the speck from our neighbor's eye (Matt:7:3); and		
11			
12	WHEREAS, the Hebrew Scriptures teach us that God delights in diversity, that all humanity		
13	bears God's image (Gen:1:26), that Sabbath protections extend to all people in the land		
14	(Ex. 20:8-11 and Dt. 5:12-15), that love of neighbor is commanded (Lv. 1:17); and		
15			
16	WHEREAS, the Epistles teach us that Christ came to break down the dividing wall that is the		
17	hostility between us that we might be reconciled as one body with diverse members		
18	(Eph 2); and		
19			
20	WHEREAS, the Missionary Society of Connecticut has a long history of working on the		
21	forefront of racial justice, boasting the first known African American Christian minister		
22	to be formally ordained in a predominantly white mainline denomination, having played		
23	an active role in the fight to free the captives of the Amistad, and having taken public		
24	stands against segregation both here in America and abroad in the recent decades; and		
25			
26	WHEREAS, in the year 2017, the Thirty First General Synod of the United Church of Christ		
27	passed a resolution calling on all judicatory and educational settings of the denomination		
28	to include the study of cultural diversity/sensitivity and institutional racism in clergy		
29	preparation and continuing education, and as a requirement for maintaining standing for		
30	all persons engaged in authorized ministry within and on behalf of the United Church of		
31	Christ; and		
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33	WHEREAS, nearly 30 years after the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ		
34	became an Open & Affirming body and adopted its Inclusive Non-Discrimination Policy,		
35	people of color still experience racism in local churches and at the Conference, racism		
36	that is intentional and unintentional, personal and institutional, interpersonal and cultural,		
37	offenses that are often committed, condoned, or ignored by clergy; and		
38			
39	WHEREAS, our country has seen both the resurgence of overt white supremacy and continued		
40	covert racism embodied in white privilege, sins that require repentance, confession and		
41	education in order to be redeemed.		
42			
43	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 151 st Annual Meeting		

44		of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ urge the Associations of
45 46		the Conference and their Committees on Ministry to adopt a policy requiring all Authorized Ministers (including Ordained, Limited Standing, Licensed, and
47 48		Commissioned) to participate in, at minimum, a one-day workshop on racism and racial justice within three years of adoption of the policy or within three years of being granted
49 50		standing by the Association, and repeat training within each subsequent three to five year period; and
51		period, and
52	BE IT	FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the Associations of the Conference and their
53		Committees on Ministry to adopt a policy requiring Members In-Discernment to
54		participate in, at minimum, a one-day workshop on racism and racial justice as a
55		prerequisite for ordination; and
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57	BE IT	FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the Connecticut Conference to make its
58		Racial Justice Training available for Members-in-Discernment and Authorized Ministers
59		at least twice during each calendar year; and
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61	BE IT	FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the Connecticut Conference, working with
62		the Racial Justice Ministries, Regional Ministers, Regional Ministry Teams, and local
63		churches to expand its Racial Justice Training for Christian Educators, Youth Leaders,
64		Sunday School Teachers, Music Directors, Organists, Choir Directors, and other Lay
65		Leaders; and
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67	BE IT	FURTHER RESOLVED that the Connecticut Conference make available resources to
68		help congregations build allies and better support, encourage, and nurture clergy of color
69		and lay leaders of color; and
70		
71	BE IT	FINALLY RESOLVED that the Connecticut Conference make available resources for
72		clergy to connect their congregations with active anti-racist movements locally,
73		nationally, and globally.