

Resolution 02- Concerning Reconciling God's Beloved Community

RA- 02

(Sense-of-the-Assembly)

Reconciling God's Beloved Community

WHEREAS, a mass murder took place on the evening of June 17, 2015, at Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, as God's Beloved community gathered in prayer and study;

WHEREAS, a suspect confessed that he committed the shooting in hopes of igniting a race war;

WHEREAS, this event revealed the darkness of the continued scourge of racism and at the same time shined the light on the grace and mercy of the Mother Emanuel AME Church;

WHEREAS, many symbols are divisive, the cross of Jesus Christ has transformed what was intended to be a cruel and unusual form of state execution to a symbol of unity through a Savior, who died and rose again that we ALL might live as God intended;

WHEREAS, many thought racism no longer existed in our nation, and yet our creedal stories still speak of separate heritages and Sunday morning worship is still the most segregated hour in America;

WHEREAS, we honor our Disciples heritage as a movement for Christian unity, even in diversity, by cooperating and partnering with each other and other faith communities to work for bringing about wholeness – healing and justice – in the world; and in becoming God's beloved community;

WHEREAS, the General Assembly meeting in Orlando, Florida, July 13-17, 2013, called upon the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to recognize itself as a people of grace and welcome to all God's children—inclusive of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, or physical ability; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia, Regional Assembly, meeting at the First Christian Church of Atlanta, in Tucker, Georgia, November 13-14, 2015, raise the voice of God as an alternative to the noise of division and encourage individuals and congregations to claim the Disciples' 2020 Mission imperative to becoming a pro-reconciling/anti-racist church;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations, God's beloved community in Georgia, start round-table discussions in the communities they serve where diverse participants sit at the table, even the table like the one where the murders occurred, to begin a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world; and

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia revive the Reconciliation Commission to work to transform individuals, communities and congregations through providing resources that connect churches with community needs, and to provide grants for such programs through the region's share of the General Reconciliation Offering.

**Submitted by Guyton Christian Church
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