

Daily Morning Message
St Paul United Church of Christ
5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, OH 45247
Allen M Fluent, Pastor
July 2, 2021

(Continuing our Meditations of Resolutions Proposed at General Synod)

**Resolution to recognize the United Nations International Decade for people of African descent
(2015-2024)**

Guiding Scriptures: Genesis 1:26-27; John 17:21; Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (Luke 4:18)

This resolution, submitted by the New Hampshire Conference and the Southwest Conference of the UCC, calls on the UCC to recognize the United Nations Declaration of an International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024). In declaring this decade, the UN acknowledges that African descendant people are a group whose rights must be protected and promoted because of the consequences of centuries of exploitation of the African continent and the forced removal of millions of Africans for forced labor in the Americas. The UN accounts for over 200 million people who self-identify as African descent living in the Americas. The resolution submitted to General Synod calls on the UCC to acknowledge the UN declaration, adopt the recommended frameworks for addressing the issues affecting African descendant people, and promote the Decade and resulting outcomes for advocating for the rights of African descendant people.

Prayer: God of all the families of the earth, we acknowledge what the Scriptures affirm – that we are all one people, members of your divine community of mutual responsibility and care. When one part of the Body of Christ is in pain, we feel the distress in the whole body. You who suffer the hurts and misfortunes of all humankind, we pray for sensitivity to every place and every group of people where the history of human oppression and violence has led to longstanding inequities and alienation. We pray for the courage to honor the truth about the history of racism and its effects upon us all. Amen.