

This is the prayer of confession used at the North Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church Covenant Day 2020. This can be used in conversations and services about racism, cultural diversity and institutional injustice.

Prayer of Confession

O God of the Exodus, of liberation and new life,

We come to you in prayer naming the “old things” to which we cling:

stereotypes based on race; unearned privileges that are ours because of gender or skin colour;

unwillingness to speak out against racism and all that diminishes other human beings;

internalized racism that keeps us from acknowledging our cultural and ethnic gifts.

O God, we confess our complicity in racism, whether we participate intentionally or not.

We live in societies, institutions and churches built on structures that privilege one group over the others.

The word “racism” is difficult for us to hear and to speak.

Open our eyes so we may understand that this is not your desire or vision for us.

We come with contrite hearts,

longing to have new hearts created within us,

seeking the waters of righteousness

that will overturn injustice

and create anew ways of living faithfully together

that honour the dignity of each person.

We long for right relationships, O God,

for abundance of life within you.

In your grace, heal and transform us and our institutions

that the rainbow of humanity may be fully reflected, gloriously alive in you.

In all things we pray, through the fully Human One, Jesus the Christ, Amen.

The United Church of Canada

