

Timeline for Position Paper on Racism and Prejudice

June 28-29, 2018 – At joint session with the Doctrinal Fenceposts Team, the category of social justice, including race relations and inequality, was identified as an essential element of the new articles of practice.

Oct. 22, 2019 – Constitutional Committee took action to prepare a position paper on racism and prejudice. A sub-committee was appointed to begin work on this position paper comprising of Edwin Colon, Gregg Chenoweth, Kent Eby, Dennis Engbrecht, and Jason Nicholls.

March 11, 2020 – At the first meeting of the sub-committee for composing a position paper on racism and prejudice, a process was established for gaining extensive input. A questionnaire was formulated and key individuals were identified for participation. The sub-committee initiated a review of position papers from like-minded denominations. Dennis Engbrecht elected committee chairman.

July 8, 2020 – At meeting, Constitutional Committee reviewed responses to questionnaire. Input from the CC was received and incorporated. Approval granted for the expansion of sub-committee (standing committee) to include minority input with full power of sub-committee members.

August 10, 2020 – Subcommittee (standing committee) expanded to include Robert Johnson, Charles Clemons, Geoffrey King, Junnus Clay, Jose Mendez, and Bob Smith, all licensed ministers.

August 26-September 11, 2020 – Subcommittee (standing committee) members individually identified key elements for inclusion in position paper and proposed action steps for implementing a position paper on racism and prejudice at 2021 General Conference

September 24, 2020 – Expanded sub-committee (standing committee) assembled via Zoom to discuss key elements and action steps.

September 30, 2020 – At meeting, the Constitutional Committee reviewed the research and direction of sub-committee (standing committee) on a position paper. Request was made for a written draft by October 31, 2020. Sub-committee was changed to a “standing committee” to allow all non-elected members to serve with equity as those elected by the general conference.

October 19, 2020 – First draft of position paper on Racism and Prejudice completed. The process of making edits and re-wording initiated with standing committee.

October 29, 2020 – A fifth draft of the position paper submitted to Constitutional Committee chairman and committee members.

December 1, 2020 – Constitutional Committee meeting via zoom; input provided with suggestions for edits to take back to standing committee before submitting to entire CC by December 31.

December 2-11, 2020 – Several edits made by Jason and Dennis before presenting 9th draft to standing committee for final input.

December 13, 2020 – 9th draft sent to standing committee for final input.

December 20-27, 2020 – Feedback received from standing committee members

January 4, 2021 – Position paper forwarded to Constitutional Committee for final approval

January 19, 2021 – Position paper reviewed by the Constitutional Committee. Following edits, “A Biblical response to Racism” was unanimously recommended for adoption by the 2021 General Conference of the Missionary Church. Recommended action steps will be forwarded to the MLC and GOC for their consideration