

1 Total Number of Pages: 2

2 Suggested Title: Amend Resolution 3376 White Privilege in the United States

3 General Church Budget Implications: No

4 Global Implications: No

5 In the United States, whiteness as a concept and racialized identity has always been placed at the
6 top of the societal hierarchy. As a result, white people in this country continue to benefit from a
7 wide range of unearned privileges based solely on their race. These privileges are the direct and
8 indirect result of practices, policies, and procedures stemming from a system of white
9 supremacy, out of which the United States was formed and in which it continues to operate.

10 The key to understanding White Privilege is that whiteness is an unearned advantage of a white
11 person. Studies continue to provide evidence of distinct differences in survival, opportunities,
12 access, resources, and benefit-of-the-doubt available to white people that are not available to
13 people of color. Despite overlapping oppressions that apply to many people in the United States,
14 i.e., sexism, ableism, ageism, heterosexism, classism, etc., racism is a determinative factor, that
15 operates at a visible and invisible level. Poverty and prison sentences, economics and education,
16 law enforcement and the legal system, healthcare and housing, are among the systems found to
17 have discrepancies based on race and color. These systems create a compound effect of
18 unearned racial privilege for white. For example, racialized housing discrimination creates racial
19 segregation; housing loans are based on the neighborhoods and pre-existing stereotypes of
20 residents; schools are funded by tax dollars from housing that is calculated on market values
21 affected by segregation and discrimination.

22 Thus we urge The United Methodist Church at every level and form to disrupt and dismantle all
23 manifestations of White Privilege. We challenge the General Conference to recognize White
24 Privilege as an underlying cause of injustice in United States society and to commit its resources,
25 energy, and accountability measures to ensuring its elimination in church and in society. It is
26 impossible to recognize the image of God as non-negotiable for everyone when our church
27 allows unearned benefits for people racialized as white, at the expense of people of color.

28 We challenge white people to disrupt and dismantle White Privilege by committing to and living
29 into a tangible and practical repentance for the sins of racism and the hoarding of unearned
30 benefits due to race. To this end, white people should engage in an overlapping and never-
31 ending three-fold practice of awareness (learning to recognize one's white privilege)l
32 internalization (making connections between one's whiteness and how it provides privileges and
33 benefits in everyday life); and action (committing to and enacting decisions and practices that
34 will dismantle White Privilege in all the places it present itself – our lives, our churches, and the
35 country.

36 We challenge each local church and connectional church body in the United States to assess the
37 extent to which White Privilege has created racial inequity within their membership, their
38 leadership, their budget, their governing practices, their values and mission, their outreach, and
39 their definitions of “welcome,” “effectiveness,” “faithfulness,” and “full participation.”

40 Finally, we call on all persons of any racial or ethnic heritage, to engage in disrupting and
41 dismantling White Privilege together in order to restore the broken body of Christ. To do so
42 honorably and in a spirit of mutuality, *without replicating White Privilege*, we recommend the
43 following:

- 44 • white people will increase risk and responsibility for the purposes of repentance and
45 repair;
- 46 • people of color will work to recognize and engage in forms of resistance that highlight
47 their dignity, worth, and wholeness, despite the harm that comes from White Privilege;
- 48 • White people will refuse to expect/demand that people of color teach them about White
49 Privilege share their stories of being harmed by White Privilege; or care for them while
50 they reckon with the harm they have caused by helping the system of White Privilege
51 exist.

52 Date: August 1, 2019