

RESOLUTION AGAINST RACIST NATIONALISM (2/5/18)

The Governing Board (Session) of the Presbyterian—New England Congregational Church respectfully requests that Albany Presbytery adopt and publicize the following resolution:

Albany Presbytery strongly condemns the unjust, racist disparagement of people and entire nations lately promoted by politicians and government officials at all levels in the mistaken effort to place “America First.” As Christians, our call is to bring to “all nations” (Matthew 28:19) the good news that God loves all people equally. Historically, America has been “first” in espousing human equality as the principle on which nations are founded. We call upon our national leaders to lead by that principle. We pray that God may open the minds and hearts of the American people to understand that the real problems they face result from real causes and not from the presence of demonized “others.” We commit to working with people of good will, regardless of political or religious affiliation, in a collective effort to solve the real problems facing our nation. We ask forgiveness from those who have been hurt by hateful rhetoric and harmed by unjust government policies. We acknowledge our responsibility and urge our elected officials to speak out against hate and “to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly” with God (Micah 6:8).

RATIONALE

Valued members of Albany Presbytery congregations and mission partners abroad are from countries that have been disparaged in the current debate over immigration. Our friends deserve to hear from us a renewed commitment to stand with them in a relationship of equality and genuine Christian love. Seeking cooperation among “people of good will, regardless of political or religious affiliation,” this statement is non-partisan and does not focus on recent reports of inflammatory remarks by President Trump, thus avoiding the distraction of arguing whether or not the reports are true. The problem is bigger than one comment by one man. It is a problem in which, under a democratic form of government, all citizens share some measure of responsibility. Acknowledging our share and asking forgiveness may serve as an example for others.