

## OVERTURE ON RESPONDING TO RACIST NATIONALISM

The Presbytery of Hudson River overtures the 223rd General Assembly (2018) of the PC(USA) to respond to expressions of racist nationalism in the statements and actions of politicians and government officials by taking the following actions:

1. Adopt the following resolution: The 223rd General Assembly (2018) of the PC(USA) 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 and the world. 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).
2. Direct the Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) to send this resolution to the President of the United States and to each United States Senator and Representative.
3. Direct Presbyterian World Mission to send this resolution to world mission partners.
4. Encourage PC(USA) pastors and congregations to publicize this resolution in their communities and with officials of local and state government.

### RATIONALE

Valued members of PC(USA) congregations and mission partners abroad are from countries that have been disparaged in the recent 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 remarks by any one individual. 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.