

# **Racism is a Violation of HUMAN RIGHTS**

## A PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L. God, we have not loved others as we have loved ourselves, or done to others as we would have them do to us.
- P. Some have kept silent in the face of injustice, while others have sacrificed their lives in fighting against injustice.
- L. *Some enjoy prosperity in the face of their neighbors' need, while others are exploited and are deprived of basic necessities.*
- P. Some families live together in security, while others are separated from parents, husbands, wives, and children.
- L. *Shame on those who make unjust laws and publish burdensome decrees, depriving the poor of justice, robbing the weakest of God's people of their rights! (Isaiah 10:1-2a)*
- P. Shame on those who build their houses by unjust means, who obtain luxuries by fraud, making their neighbors work without payment, giving them no wage for their labor! (Jeremiah 22:13)
- L. *Shame on those who turn justice upside down and bring righteousness to the ground, who persecute the guiltless, hold people to ransom, and thrust the destitute out of court! (Amos 5:7, 12b)*
- P. I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty and you gave me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not welcome me; naked and you did not clothe me; sick and you did not visit me.
- L. *Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me. (Matthew 25:42-43, 45)*
- P. Be gracious to us, O God, in your true love; in the fullness of your mercy, blot out the misdeeds of your people.

## Covenant for Congregations

A focus on local congregations is at the center of the campaign. Fifteen churches or more at each of the seven sites will covenant to be human rights congregations by choosing to do at least four of the following including numbers 6 & 7.

1. Put the one page summary of the Campaign on Racism as a Violation of Human Rights in the church bulletin.
2. Devote one Sunday for a special program on racism and human rights.
3. Erect a wooden sign or banner in front of the church that will stay up for the duration of the campaign that says, "RACISM Violates Human Rights."
4. Begin a study group in the congregation on the issue of racism as a human rights violation.
5. If possible, participate in the Congregational Linkage program in which we will discuss human rights, racism and the topics to be covered in the hearings with a congregation whose membership is of a different race or denomination than people in our congregation.
6. Take an offering in support of this campaign.
7. Attend the hearing in October that is closest to them.