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Statement of Acknowledgement of Racial Prejudice and Proposals for Improving Race Relations in Churches of Christ

Herald of Truth

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STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF RACIAL PREJUDICE AND PROPOSALS
FOR IMPROVING RACE RELATIONS IN
CHURCHES OF CHRIST

We the undersigned individual Christians acknowledge the sin of racial prejudice which has existed in Churches of Christ and church-related institutions and businesses. Because we love the church of Jesus Christ and want to see her fully committed to the principles of Spiritual Equality and racial justice for all persons, we plead for the end of discrimination in all of its forms in the life of the church. To this goal the following proposals are directed:

I. Re: LOCAL CHURCH ACTIVITIES

1. Plan race relations workshops for church leaders (preachers, elders, deacons, teachers) in every region of the United States.

2. Encourage Christians to attend interracial meetings and worship with churches attended by Christians of other races.

3. Begin serious educational programs in local churches including sermons, to inform the brethren of the Bible teaching on racial discrimination.

4. Integrate local congregations as these opportunities exist, seeking to achieve the meaningful involvement of Christians of all races in the total program of the church.

5. Publicize the fact that the church is open to persons of all races, if this is true.

6. Plan all cooperative efforts in evangelism and benevolence to include Christians of all races.

7. Evaluate all missions programs to ascertain they are based on genuine fraternity, and not paternalism.

II. Re: CHURCH-RELATED INSTITUTIONS

1. Increase efforts at Christian colleges to recruit more nonwhite students (by offering more scholarships for them).

2. Consider hiring qualified black teachers and other non-academic personnel at Christian colleges.


4. Totally integrate all social activities at Christian colleges.
5. Sponsor a race relations workshop on every Christian college campus (making available printed materials on this issue to all students).

6. Urge Christian College lectureship directors and committees to plan entire lectureships on the theme of spiritual equality ("Oneness in Christ" or a similar theme).

7. Integrate children's homes, homes for aged, and Christian camps and seek to have integrated staffs, boards of trustees, and counselors at camp.

8. Open all Bible Chairs to Christians of all races and seek to integrate staff and all social activities.

9. Integrate the staff of Campus Evangelism. Program and develop interracial materials.

III. Re: HERALD OF TRUTH (Only National mass-medial effort of Churches of Christ)

1. Speak courageously on the sin of racial discrimination on both radio and TV Programs.

2. Use blacks in TV film series in various roles (not simply subservient roles).

3. Use black speakers on radio and TV speakers in the course of a year.

IV. Re: PUBLISHING COMPANIES AND CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORES

1. Solicit articles from qualified black writers and ask them to prepare articles on various subjects.

2. Publish more articles on the issue of racial discrimination and injustice.

3. Publish more articles on news of activities of black churches and Christians and run photographs of these activities when available.

4. Develop Bible school literature, books, filmstrips and slides to include proper representation of all races—to aid in the process of identification for minority groups.

5. Urge Christian publishers and Christian bookstores to seek out qualified persons of all races to assume front-office jobs as well as the other jobs usually assigned to minority groups.

V. Re: CHRISTIAN-OWNED BUSINESSES

1. Urge employment of qualified persons of all races.

2. Plan in-training programs to qualify members of minority groups for jobs other than dead-end jobs, offering them the opportunity—if they are qualified—for positions of supervision and management.
VI. Re: ALL CHRISTIANS

1. Affirm without equivocation that equal opportunities in housing, jobs, and schooling should be granted to all persons in our democratic society.

2. Employ one's influence—political, social, economic, and religious—to support these convictions on equal rights and opportunities.

June 26, 1968
Atlanta, Georgia