

**RACIAL RECONCILIATION: A PILOT PROGRAM FOR ASSEMBLIES
OF GOD PASTORS AND THE BLACK BAPTIST MINISTERIAL
ASSOCIATION IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**

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Religious and secular arenas have experienced problems attributed to racism and segregation. Despite Christian values and practices, racism and segregation permeate the church. This project sought to initiate reconciliation between Assemblies of God and Black Baptist ministers and churches in Kansas City.

The Assemblies of God pastors within the Kansas City Missouri Section of the Southern Missouri District primarily consists of Whites. The Baptists Ministers Union of Kansas City, Missouri, is exclusively Black. Both were invited to participate in joint fellowship gatherings and a mass celebration. Neither group had any prior interactions with one another. The leadership of both groups was to collaborate in the planning and execution of these events.

Doctrinal issues were not an issue although church traditions were different; it became clear that race and segregation were problems. This occurred primarily on a covert basis. Behavioral indicators were the lack of promptness or attendance at meetings. Verbal comments pertaining to race that had never been addressed were indicative of heart issues within individuals. Traditions of man superseded God's will for reconciliation.

Racism, segregation, and reconciliation were examined from a biblical and secular perspective in this project. This enabled a comprehension of historical precedents that contributed to racial undercurrents. Also, biblical understanding of these concepts provides hope that despite errors of humankind, God prevails in His will that there is neither male nor female, Jew nor Greek, slave nor free; we are all one in Christ Jesus.