

AUGUST 12, 1995
46TH GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Resolution 25, Use of Black Ministries

WHEREAS, The Gospel of Jesus Christ declares God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life; and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures have promised that in the last days God would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh; and

WHEREAS, The world for whom Jesus died and the flesh upon which the Spirit is poured out is without regard to ethnicity, class, economic distinction, or gender; and

WHEREAS, The foremost exemplary model of Pentecostal community in the 20th century is the Azusa Revival where leadership and people joined together without regard to ethnicity, providing a divine rebuke against the Jim Crow laws and racial discrimination of this worldly age and throwing a shining light of God's intention for His church where the blood of Christ washes out the color line; and

WHEREAS, Because of the deep stain and sin of racism following the Azusa Revival, predominately black and white Pentecostal denominations went their separate ways for a season; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God was established during that time of separation so that our Fellowship became one from which black persons were mostly absent; and

WHEREAS, Our testimony to the world has suffered as a result of this separation and our Fellowship has been deprived of the rich blessings which could have been made by our black brothers and sisters; and

WHEREAS, In the goodness of the Lord and in the fullness of time, the Holy Spirit prompted us as a body in our 1989 General Council to repent of and denounce racism as a sin; and

WHEREAS, Across this Fellowship congregations are opening their hearts to become multi-ethnic communities which bear witness to Jesus Christ who told us that the world will know us by our love for one another; and

WHEREAS, It is right that we repent of racism and ask our black brothers and sisters for forgiveness for failing to keep and treasure the shining ideal of Jesus and the 20th century Azusa Revival; and

WHEREAS, We are committed to removing every last vestige of racism from our midst and restoring to the work of the Lord and blessing of an integrated Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, Toward this end we encourage from our hearts the full participation of black persons within the Assemblies of God in fellowship and leadership; and

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WHEREAS, Action by this General Council is needed to give impetus to our districts, ministers, and people for the full inclusion of black brothers and sisters throughout our Fellowship; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this General Council ask the general superintendent and Board of Administration, the executive and general presbyteries, the executive officers and presbyteries of districts, pastors and ministers, local church boards and congregations to take whatever actions are necessary or advisable to enhance and accelerate the progress being made in our Fellowship for the inclusion of black brothers and sisters throughout every aspect of the Assemblies of God; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this Council request the general superintendent to issue a public statement speaking to the spirit of this resolution before the Council adjourns.

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General Superintendent Thomas Trask's Statement

This 46th General Council has adopted a resolution calling upon our Fellowship to enhance and accelerate efforts toward inclusiveness of our black brothers and sisters throughout the General Council. I pledge that, with the Spirit's enablement, I will do all within my power to fulfill what this General Council has called for. I support this action with all my heart.

(RESOLUTION ADOPTED)

www.agts.edu/resources/racism/racism.htm