

## About Imagine No Racism

The Upper New York Annual Conference's Imagine No Racism initiative developed in response to the Call to Action<sup>1</sup> issued at the 2016 Northeastern Jurisdictional (NEJ) Conference and a statement issued by the NEJ College of Bishops at that gathering. In response to the charge given by the College, Bishop Mark Webb created the Bishop's Task Force to Eliminate Racism. That Task Force, working in conjunction with the Conference Commission on Religion and Race (CCORR), sought the will of God in living into the mandate.

Several key principles emerged that would guide the recommended response. First, the Upper New York Conference clearly needed training that raised awareness, expanded knowledge and developed skills for addressing racism in its many current manifestations. Next, to ensure that the conversations included the latest scholarship and best practices, CCORR would partner with the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR). Lastly, Upper New York (UNY) is a large conference with multiple challenges of racial and ethnic inequality within its boundaries. The conference approach is designed to empower individuals and local churches to discern how God is calling them to apply the new knowledge and skills in their lives and missions. The passions of individual members, ongoing work of congregations, and community contexts of local churches will differ. With these guiding principles in mind, UNY launched Imagine No Racism on April 21, 2018.

<sup>1</sup> The Call to Action Statement can be found in the Tuesday, July 12, 2016 Edition of the Daily Christian Advocate: The Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, Vol. 20, Issue 3. The Statement by the NEJ College is printed in the Thursday, July 14, 2016, Edition of the Daily Christian Advocate Vol. 20, Issue 5. Both are available at <http://www.nejumc.org/2016conference.html>.

## Imagine No Racism's Mission and Vision

Imagine No Racism Mission: to equip followers of Jesus Christ to be more actively antiracist in their lives and ministries so that they increase their effectiveness in making disciples and building the beloved community.

Imagine No Racism Vision: different manifestations of racial injustice will be dismantled because of the work of members, congregations, and other ministries of the Upper New York Annual Conference.