

CCSW Reconciliation Committee

“So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.” (2 Corinthians 5:16–18)

Mission

The mission of the CCSW Reconciliation Committee is to provide faithful Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation education, advocacy, and stewardship for the Christian Church in the Southwest.

Background

Reconciliation is the work of Christ, to unite all people of all walks of life into the Kingdom of God. Because reconciliation is the work of Christ, it is, therefore, the work of the church.

Racial justice is an issue that appears throughout our history as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). However, the Reconciliation ministry of the church officially began at the General Assembly in 1968 with the approval of Reconciliation: The Urban Emergency Program of the Christian Church. Its mission was to work to dismantle racism in our church and society. Reconciliation was reaffirmed as a permanent ministry of the church in 1972. Our 20/20 Vision, adopted at the 2001 General Assembly in Kansas City, MO, included the mandate for the Disciples to become an Anti-Racist/Pro-Reconciling Church, a phrase that has recently been changed to a Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racist (PR/AR) Church.

On the last Sunday of September and first Sunday of October, Disciples collect a special offering to further the work of Reconciliation Ministries. One half of all funds sent in by congregations in a region is used to fund major Reconciliation projects. The other half returns to the region to fund mission projects that Disciples congregations have begun and/or sponsored in their communities.

The Reconciliation Committee of the Christian Church in the Southwest was formed in 2019 and participates in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Mission Priority to become a Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racist Church. As members of the Body of Christ, we claim an anti-racist identity that empowers, heals, and makes whole. We partner with others in our congregations and communities to create opportunities that address the divisions caused by racism. Our work takes many forms: workshops; community forums; local and regional missions that require us to confront injustices resulting from and/or intensified by racism.

The Objectives

- To plan and direct the Region’s anti-racism education for the whole congregation.
- To advocate by speaking to the church (CCSW) and initiating the church’s message to the world regarding God’s reconciling work.
- To promote the annual Reconciliation Offering within the congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest.
- To establish the annual Reconciliation Granting calendar.
- To encourage Disciples congregations and ministries to design anti-racist and pro-reconciling projects and apply for Regional Reconciliation Grants.
- To steward the receipt and governance of the Reconciliation Offering funds from the General Church’s Reconciliation Mission Offering.

- To receive applications for and recommend Reconciliation grant awards to the Regional Council in accordance with the guidelines.

Fund Distribution

Each year, the Reconciliation Committee will create a budget based on (1) Income from the annual Reconciliation Offering; (2) Existing funds in the Reconciliation Account; (3) Any direct donations or program gifts.

25% of annual income	CCSW PRAR Programming (Annual Trainings, Retreats, Winter Talk, etc.)
25% of annual income	Spring Grant Proposals
25% of annual income	Fall Grant Proposals
25% of annual income	Contingency/Emergency/Advocacy

Anti-Racism/Reconciliation Education and Program

“He has showed you, O people, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

Each year, as funds allow, the Reconciliation Committee will schedule PRAR Trainings, being careful to distribute the training throughout the region. The Reconciliation Committee will also work to develop Regional Anti-Racism trainers. The region will also budget for Anti-Racism programming of the region like Winter Talk and voter registration initiatives.

Advocacy

“And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.” (Isaiah 58:12)

Recognizing that all Christians are called to speak out of their own convictions, the Reconciliation Committee is empowered to speak to the Christian Church in the Southwest as needs arise concerning the intersection of the Church’s anti-racism commitments and events or issues arising within the church and within culture. This might come in the form of “a word to the Church” where the “Church” in reference is the Christian Church in the Southwest.

As discernment guides, the Reconciliation Committee may also *initiate* the Region’s advocacy to the larger church or to the culture. As examples, such public advocacy might come in the form of formal correspondence with local civic leaders, state Governors, legislators, General Ministry partners and/or the Church beyond the regional expression. Such public advocacy on behalf of the Region will only be done in consultation with and approval by the Regional Executive Committee and where appropriate, the Regional Council.

Stewardship

“The command that Christ has given us is this: whoever loves God must love others also.” (1 John 4:21)

To answer God’s call to further the vision of a transformed, anti-racist, multi-cultural church, we will award grants to churches and non-profits in the Christian Church in the Southwest that seek support for projects or programs that aim to:

- Foster healthy conversations on racism in a community.
- Empower marginalized communities or cultivate relationships between communities.
- Change the systems that cause racial discrimination.
- Change attitudes through education, personal involvement, and shared/common experience; and/or
- Creatively address current social problems specific to a community.

Grants will **not** be considered for projects/programs that:

- Deliver goods or services that are already provided in the community (duplication of services);
- Underwrite salaries for staff whose duties are primarily aimed at other tasks; or
- Fund capital expenditure such as building, fixtures, building renovations, or high-cost equipment.

Successful projects and funding requests will target the systemic problems of racism in our communities and churches:

- In accordance with Resolution 0731 (2007 General Assembly), entitled Recommendations Concerning Reconciliation Mission, grants under this program are intended to combat racism and its root systemic causes. Grants may be used for anti-poverty works only if such works contribute directly to the work of racial justice and reconciliation.
- Only Disciples congregations or recognized ministry partners of the CCSW are eligible to apply.
- CCSW congregations that apply must have contributed to one of the justice-related special offerings during the year, such as Week of Compassion, Reconciliation or Green Chalice.
- Collaboration is encouraged, for example between Disciples congregations, local schools, police departments, non-profit agencies, or other denominations and faith traditions.
- Funds will be distributed after the CCSW office has received the signed Conditions of Grant Agreement included with the award announcement letter.
- Grant recipients may receive a visit from Reconciliation Team members during the year to encourage and observe the project/program.
- Grant recipients are required to submit a video showing the use of their grant money no later than six months after the program or event has taken place. The video will be used to promote the grant process and to allow future recipients to learn from past experiences. video should include photos, press clippings, and other materials to showcase accomplishments; such items may be used later by the CCSW in its publications.
- Failure to submit a video will disqualify the recipient from consideration of future funding for a period of one year.
- The grant period will be for 12 months. Approved projects may be renewed for up to three years. No organization will be funded for more than three consecutive years. Grants for second and third years will be contingent on evaluation.

Grant Schedule

Spring--The deadline for Spring requests will be set for not less than one month prior to the Spring (second) Regional Council meeting of the year and grant awards will be announced following the Regional Council meeting. The window for making applications will open not less than six weeks prior to the deadline. Organizations must be given at least 6 weeks to apply.

Fall-- The deadline for Fall requests will be set for not less than one month prior to the Fall (final) Regional Council meeting of the year and grant awards will be announced following the Regional Council meeting. The window for making applications will open not less than six weeks prior to the deadline. Organizations must be given at least 6 weeks to apply.

2024 Schedule

SEASON	ANNOUNCEMENT	APPLICATION WINDOW	COMMITTEE DECISION	REGIONAL COUNCIL
Spring	March 1	March 26-May 7	May 21	June Meeting
Fall	August 1	September 3-October 15	October 29	November Meeting

Reconciliation Grant Application

You may type in the form or print legibly in ink.

[Deadlines for Spring or Fall added here]		
Mail to: CCSW Reconciliation Committee PO Box 1689 Fort Worth, TX 76101	OR	reconciliation@ccsw.org

Organizational Overview*

Name of Organization: _____ IRS Tax EIN#: _____

Contact Name/Title: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (____)____-____ Email: _____

Project/Program Overview

Project/Program Title: _____ Amount Requested: \$ _____

Which of the Reconciliation Grant funding priorities does the program/project relate to?

(check all that apply)

- Fostering healthy conversations on racism in a community.
- Empowering marginalized communities or cultivating relationships between communities.
- Changing the systems that cause racial discrimination.
- Changing attitudes through education, personal involvement, and shared common experience.
- Addressing current social problems specific to a community.

In 50 or fewer words, describe how the grant monies will be utilized?

Name the justice-related special offering that your congregation contributed to in the past year:

How have you been “repairers of the breach” as mentioned in Isaiah 58:12?

*Attach to your application a copy of the organization’s

- a) most recent budget
- b) most recent financial statements (i.e., balance sheet, report of income and expenditures)
- c) IRS Exemption Letter

Failure to include these attachments will disqualify your application.

Reconciliation Grant Project/Program Narrative

The Project/Program Narrative is the most important piece of your application and should cover the four areas below in three pages or less. The most effective applications use clear and simple language. You may omit bullet points if they are not relevant to your proposed project/program or organization.

1. YOUR ORGANIZATION'S BACKGROUND

- Mission
- Founding Date of organization
- Major Programs
- Connections/Collaborations with similar organizations
- Other current funding sources

2. THE PROPOSED PROJECT/PROGRAM

- What is the background of this program?
- What are the key elements and/or activities of the proposed project/program?
- Who will you be working with on this project/program (if you are collaborating with other churches/agencies)?
- Why are you proposing this project/program?
- What, if any, current or long-term issues specific to your community does the project/ program address?
- How does the project/program further the mission of racial reconciliation identified earlier in the application?

3. PROJECT/PROGRAM PLAN

- Provide a timeline (key steps to be taken, when they occur, who will do them) for implementing this project/program.
- List any organizations or churches that you will be collaborating with while implementing this project/program.

4. EVALUATION

- Beyond submitting the Grant video to the Christian Church in the Southwest, what steps will you take to evaluate this specific project/program?
- How will you know that the project/program has been successful?