

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY CHURCHES  
Gathered in Annual Conference  
July, 2015

**A RESOLUTION**

One hundred fifty years after the American Civil War ended and slavery was abolished by the thirteenth amendment to the United States Constitution, the stain of racism still infects the nation. During the last year we have seen repeated incidents of violence against persons of color, accompanied by expressions of hatred that encourage cruelty and bloodshed.

As a fellowship of Christian churches and ministry centers, the International Council of Community Churches reaffirms its commitment to justice; to reconciliation, and to Christian unity. These cannot be achieved without individual and societal changes that move our communities away from violence and brutality and by commitment to new paths of understanding and compassion

To that end:

We applaud and encourage religious and civic leaders in Ferguson, Missouri; Baltimore, Maryland; Charleston, South Carolina; and other cities and towns, including those of our fellowship, who are working to move their communities beyond the tragedies that have afflicted them and toward “the beloved community” envisioned by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Let us all continue “overcoming evil with good.” (*Romans 12:1*)

We decry the rhetoric and action of those who continue to seek division and discord and who advocate an evil vision of apartheid-like separation of God’s children. We firmly oppose violence, regardless of its source, and affirm God’s unifying shalom.

We pray and pledge ourselves to work for a society in which no one is denied her or his God-given rights, in which all individuals are given the opportunity to achieve their full human potential, and in which the weak and vulnerable are given special protection and are strengthened by those who are strong.

We pray for God’s guidance and wisdom in our quest.

Done this 16th day of July, 2015