

COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

Rev. Javier Olivares, Chair

CCORR- Conference Commission on Religion and Race

I&D Task Force- Inclusion and Diversity Task Force

ELCC- Ethnic Local Church Concerns

R.A.C.E.- Reflection, Action, Courageous Dialogue and Engagement

DSC - Desert Southwest Conference

CRCC- Cross Racial and Cross Cultural

The purpose of the CCORR shall be to challenge, lead, and equip the people of the Desert Southwest Conference to become interculturally competent, to ensure institutional equity and to facilitate vital conversations about religion, race, and culture.

Throughout this year CCORR has worked intensely in partnership with ELCC to address racism and Cultural Competency in our conference. Because of our commitment last year during Annual Conference, in August of 2020 the R.A.C.E. coalition was formed and later a support group called Action Team was created. In the fall of 2020, we began to be in conversation with Dr. Grace Pak a consultant from Shalom I.D.E.A. The result of this led to have a Cultural Competency and CRCC Strategy Consultation with Dr. Pak where the objective would be for her to help us facilitate a process to create an effective and sustainable system/structure to increase cultural competency and support CRCC ministry for the sake of the mission of making disciples for Christ that is inclusive of all people. For this an I&D Task Force was created, with 15 people in key positions of leadership in our Conference and from the four districts. This group met for five sessions and three goals were identified: (1) Provide learning opportunities to increase Intercultural Competency at all levels of the Conference, (2) Increase diversity in the leadership at all levels of the Conference and (3) Promote equity through reviewing & adjusting policies, procedures and practices throughout the Conference with focus on power dynamics.

Because of our commitment as a conference to this work of dismantling racism and to Cultural Competency, CCORR will bring a legislation to this Annual Conference where the above goals are reflected in the legislation.

CCORR has worked on contextualizing and editing the Foundations for Cultural Competency and Cross-Cultural and Cross-Racial Appointments document which you can find in our CCORR website.

If you would like to know more about CCORR you can visit us at: <https://dscumc.org/religion-and-race/> or visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CCORR>.