

ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS

Rev. Khalif A. Smith, Sr., Chair

Mission:

The Ethnic and Local Church Concerns (ELCC) committee is committed to maintaining the Unity of the Spirit in the Desert Southwest Annual Conference local churches by seeking equity and equality for all persons without regard to race, gender, place of origin, sexual orientation, social status, economic status, sexual identity, age, or creed.

Summary of Activities:

The 2020-2021 conference year has been a year of particular interest to our ethnic local churches and our communities of color. The ethnic disparity which has been revealed due to the pandemic, as well as the systemic racism that has been brought to light in the wake of the George Floyd killing, have inspired the collaborative ministries of Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC) and the Commission on Religion and Race (CORR).

This year the ELCC has been in contact and checked in with ethnic churches throughout the Conference assisting with transportation, food, clothing, and storage needs. The committee also collaborated with CORR to plan a strategy for providing critical racial equity training to the leadership and local churches of the Conference.

The two committees were also responsible with the assistance of Bishop Hoshibata, for forming the DSC RACE Coalition (Reflection, Action, Courageous Dialog, Engagement), which provided a number of webinars, educational materials, worship materials, online resources, and open forum conversations. We have hosted Frances Causey, Miguel De la Torre, and Rudy Rasmus. The coalition has also offered a 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge to all members of the Conference and facilitated workshops at The Gathering and RIM (Residency In Ministry).

Future Planning:

- ELCC is currently working with CORR to assist the Conference by creating Inclusion and Diversity training opportunities.
- The DSC RACE Coalition has created an Action Team of those interested in joining the ministry of racial equity, equality, and justice.
- ELCC will meet with the Western Jurisdiction Inter-Ethnic Coordinating Committee (WJIECC)

Those interested in this ministry can get connected by contacting the chair.

Contact:

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