

## **Addressing Systemic and Structural Racism, White Supremacy, and Other Forms of Oppression**

**WHEREAS** we believe that systemic and structural racism, white privilege and supremacy, and other forms of oppression were woven historically throughout the political, economic, and cultural fabric of our state and nation;

**WHEREAS** we believe that these conditions persist in many forms to this day, in spite of the social progress we have made;

**WHEREAS** these persistent conditions can be seen today in the widespread disparities based on race and class associated with such social indicators as poverty, unemployment, family income and assets, incarceration, education, health, home and business ownership, and life expectancy, to name just a few;

**WHEREAS** our nation's white majority has for too long remained complacent in the face of overwhelming statistical evidence that our nation's struggle for racial and economic justice has not succeeded;

**WHEREAS** we can't fix social inequalities when we don't fully understand either their underlying historical roots or the ways they manifest in our society today;

**WHEREAS** the persistence of these unjust conditions has raised questions in many people's minds as to whether their lives matter as much as others lives do, thereby giving rise today to new social movements such as Black Lives Matter; and

**WHEREAS** we believe that as a society we have a responsibility for, and a collective self-interest in, identifying, challenging, and eradicating these unjust conditions and their underlying causes;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we call for committed and authentic effort at the local, state, and national levels to conduct a comprehensive investigation of, and develop recommendations to address, the continuing manifestations of systemic and structural racism, white privilege and supremacy, and other forms of disproportionality, inequality, and oppression in our state and our local communities.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call for courageous conversations as part of a community-wide discourse to understand and seek to eliminate the conditions that allow inequalities to continue to exist in our nation, our state, and our communities