

## Working toward racial justice in WDC - May 2023 Update

*“The Western District Conference seeks to foster a biblical, multicultural vision of the missional church by being inclusive of, walking with, and learning from many cultural and racial/ethnic groups. Desiring to follow the way of Jesus, we seek to dismantle racism and prejudice in our congregations, conference, institutions and communities. We covenant to be the church together to support and encourage each other as we learn what it means to be disciples of Jesus. We desire wholesome working relationships in all our ministries.”* – from the Constitution of Western District Conference

In Spring 2022, the WDC Executive Board appointed a team to do an anti-racism audit of WDC’s structure, program and policies, as we seek to fulfill WDC’s vision for the church and be faithful to the way of Jesus.

Members of the Anti-Racism Audit Team were Vicki Penner and Ben Woodward-Breckbill (Executive Board members), Sandra Montes-Martines (Staff), Michelle Armster and Jenna Ratzlaff (Constituency). Heidi Regier Kreider (Conference Minister) served as staff liaison.

The audit process was conducted between April and September 2022, and gathered information to address the questions: *How is WDC acting or participating in racist ways? How is WDC supporting efforts to dismantle racism? How could WDC better support efforts to dismantle racism?*

In October 2022, Audit Team completed its work and submitted a report to the WDC Executive Board, with suggestions for next steps in the work of dismantling racism.

**The full Audit Report is now posted here: [\[English / Spanish\]](#).**

A brief summary of the report is posted here: [\[English / Spanish\]](#).

During the WDC Annual Assembly (August 11-13, 2023), the delegate session and a seminar will offer more information and discussion about the audit, along recommendations and action steps growing out of it.

The Executive Board thanks members of the Anti-Racism Audit team and those who contributed valuable feedback and information for the audit. We invite the prayers and participation of all members of WDC as we work together toward racial justice and equity.