

A Guide to Becoming an Intercultural Church

An intercultural church:

- respects, embraces and values different cultures and cultural identities
- offers a positive vision of the whole community
- values the give and take of respectful relationships
- takes steps to become a multilingual community

Why should a church become intercultural?

- To affirm and embrace God's Spirit
- To become aware of white privilege and boldly speak out and work to end structural racism
- To become a Matthew 25 church where Presbyterians of all races and cultures engage together in God's mission
- To live out a principle of mutual accountability in relationships with one another at all levels of the church
- To include people of different races and cultures on boards of trustees, finance and property committees, and in the planning and implementation of financial management and stewardship in the church
- To end discrimination in housing, health care, education and employment
- To eliminate food apartheid (areas devoid of affordable fresh food), mass incarceration and environmental racism in communities of color
- To engage the genuine racial, cultural and linguistic diversity of all members of the church.

How can a church become intercultural?

Actions:

- Take the 21-Day Racial Justice Challenge. See pcusa.org/matthew25 and select focus #2: "dismantling structural racism"
- Equip your congregation and mid council to form intercultural coalitions, networks and new worshipping communities, and transform existing churches into intercultural congregations, working toward a respectful awareness and appreciation of each other's differences
- Encourage your mid council or congregation to hold cultural humility and antiracism trainings
- Focus on planting new congregations and raising indigenous leadership for all levels of the church from within communities of color
- Urge candidates for ministry to engage in educational experiences in intercultural settings and provide students opportunities to work in a racial and cultural context different from their own
- Support seminarians in their study and learning from diverse readings and topics in seminary curriculum about the lived realities of people of color in the U.S., including Native Americans, and the life experiences of immigrants to the U.S.
- Encourage all members, particularly those in predominantly white groups in the PC(USA), to work to end racism by working on recognition, repentance, resistance, resilience, reparations, reconciliation, recovery and resonance.

For more information, visit the Intercultural Ministries and Support for Congregations of Color page at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/racial-equity-womens-intercultural-ministries/intercultural-ministries/>