



IOWA UMC ADVOCACY TEAM – February, 2019

Preventing Racial Profiling in Iowa

SUMMARY OF POSITION: We call on state representatives to do the following:

- 1. Prioritize and enact legislation to end racial profiling;**
- 2. Allocate sufficient funds to ensure vigorous enforcement of legislation to prevent racial profiling;**
- 3. Retrain law enforcement on how to discontinue and prevent the use of racial profiling; and**
- 4. Ensure that law enforcement agencies are accountable for the discontinuing and preventing the use of racial profiling.**

Because we oppose the practice of racial profiling anywhere in the United States but have particular concern for our own state of Iowa, **we currently support Senate Study Bill 1038 (SSB1038) and urge that it move forward to become a law to prevent racial profiling in Iowa.**

UNITED METHODIST OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

We affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God. We therefore work toward societies in which each person's value is recognized, maintained, and strengthened. We support the basic rights of all persons to equal access to housing, education, communication, employment, medical care, ***legal redress for grievances, and physical protection.*** [emphasis added]

(Social Principles: The Social Community, The Book of Discipline, 2016)

Individuals of color have a disproportionate number of encounters with law enforcement, indicating that racial profiling continues to be a problem. A report by the US Department of Justice found that Blacks and Hispanics were approximately three times more likely to be searched during a traffic stop than white motorists. African Americans were twice as likely to be arrested and almost four times as likely to experience the use of force during encounters with the police.

(American Prospect, March 17, 2012, "The 10 Most Disturbing Facts About Racial Inequality in the U.S. Criminal Justice System", Book of Resolutions—White Privilege in the US #3376)

Racial profiling is a violation of the respect for human rights, an abhorrent manifestation of racism, and violation of the moral standard of the United States and The United Methodist Church. [It] threatens the safety of both US citizens and immigrants.

(From Resolution #3377, Opposition to Racial Profiling in the US, Book of Resolutions, Adopted 2016)

(continued)

ADDITIONAL FACTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

- For every 10,000 citizens, African Americans are stopped 3,400 times. Hispanics were stopped 360 more times.
- Stopped African Americans are 127 percent more likely to get frisked than Caucasians.
- Stopped Hispanics are 43 percent more likely to get frisked than Caucasians.
- Stopped African Americans had a 76 percent higher chance of getting searched.
- Stopped Hispanics had a 16 percent higher chance of getting searched.
- Stopped African Americans had a 26 percent higher chance and stopped Hispanics had a 32 percent higher chance of getting arrested.

(On behalf of Sivin & Miller, LLP Attorneys at Law posted in [Civil Rights](#) on Tuesday, June 6, 2017)

There have been instances of racial profiling by law enforcement in communities in Iowa. One such incident (currently involved in the court process) occurred in Des Moines, Iowa, in the summer of 2018. It was captured on video (<https://www.facebook.com/iowacaci/videos/230730307633180/>).

Since the practice of racial profiling “has been a concern of numerous civil rights organizations and The United Methodist Church for decades” and the prophet Isaiah has spoken these words: “Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights, and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people” (Isaiah 10:1-2a NIV), United Methodists are called “to be proactive in educating . . . about racial profiling and establishing networks of cooperation with criminal justice and law enforcement agencies.”

(Resolution #3377, [Book of Resolutions](#), Adopted 2016)

(Submitted on behalf of the Iowa United Methodist Legislative Advocacy Team. For more information about this issue, please contact Rita Carter, ritaac@mchsi.com, 515-979-0605.)