



## **Achieving Health Equity through Racial Justice**

### **A Statement of the Adventist Health Policy Association**

*“Do not withhold good from those to whom  
it is due, when it is in your power to do it.”  
Proverbs 3:27*

The faith that motivates Adventist healthcare around the world is founded on the belief that all human beings are created in the image of God and are loved by the Creator. Adventist faith is informed by the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and is committed to extending Christ’s ministry in the service of human health. According to this faith, every person has dignity as a child of God and must be given respect and just treatment. This belief in fundamental human equality leads us to embrace the goal of health equity and work to overcome structural racism that result in inequitable health outcomes. As the united policy voice of the five Adventist health systems in the United States, the Adventist Health Policy Association is committed to promoting care for the whole person – mind, body, and spirit. Racism destroys the well-being of communities and threatens both personal and public health. For health care to be effective for the whole person, health systems must attend to the factors that undermine health. This can best be achieved through clear commitment to the following principles:

#### **Our COMMITMENT is expressed through our GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- To partner with organizations combatting racial injustice and increase equitable access to care in the communities we serve.
- To establish greater relationships of trust and collaboration with communities that have experienced discrimination.
- To advocate for public policies that increase equitable access to health care and remove social and environmental barriers that lead to poor health.
- To listen carefully to those who have personally experienced racism and supporting their practical suggestions for change.
- To be data driven and modify systems of care as needed to produce equitable outcomes for all.
- To support intentional efforts to eliminate racial discrimination in all aspects of employment practices and healthcare services.
- To learn from our diversity, recognizing that we are stronger because of it, and seeking creative ways to strengthen a culture of inclusion.

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*This statement was approved by the AHPA Board, May 2, 2022.*