**Speaking Out Against Christian Nationalism**

*People who equate Christianity with right wing politics need to see that there is a*

*progressive Christian alternative … A home with wide open doors to receive them.*

****Christian nationalism is the belief that our nation is defined by Christianity, and that the government should take active steps to keep it that way, despite the fact that freedom of religion is part of our Constitution. In addition to assuming that we should be a Christian nation, Christian nationalism embraces a faith that is complicit in racial, ethnic, religious, and gender discrimination and seeks to enlist the government in creating and enforcing laws that privilege an extreme version of Christianity.

The United Church of Christ (UCC) has taken a stand against [Christian nationalism](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5cfea0017239e10001cd9639/t/5f5b8999bc43fd65e8d28712/1599834522206/What%2BIs%2BChristian%2BNationalism%2B%281%29.pdf). In April 2023, Rev. John Dorhauer, then general minister and president of the UCC, addressed how this far-right religious movement has grown to the point that some national politicians espouse its oppressive ideology. He warned that these extremists don’t just want to rewrite the history of the United States but its laws, too.

Rev. Dorhauer said, “These elected officials are working hard to rewrite the story of America through the lens of a narrow, fringe view of Christianity that will not tolerate any deviance from their narrative that says that America was intended from the beginning to be Christian, white, heterosexual and run by men. The attack on wokeness, the attack on critical race theory, the attack on religious pluralism, the attack on secular ideology, the attack on trans children and their parents, the attacks on interracial marriage, the attack on women’s reproductive rights, the attack on the rights to privacy, the attacks on access to birth control, the attacks on drag culture — all staples of a thriving democracy and all critical to the pursuit of one’s happiness without fear of government intervention — are all byproducts of a religious fundamentalism parading its patriotism and known simply as Christian nationalism.”

The UCC is coordinating a response, called Christians Against Christian Nationalism, with longtime coalition partners at the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. Part of their statement reads, “Whether we worship at a church, mosque, synagogue, or temple, America has no second-class faiths. All are equal under the U.S. Constitution. As Christians, we must speak in one voice condemning Christian nationalism as a distortion of the gospel of Jesus and a threat to our democracy.”

You are encouraged to learn more at the Christians Against Christian Nationalism website, read the statement, and sign on to show your support [at this link](https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/).

**Christian Nationalism … What Can We Do?**

Christian nationalism uses Christian language to cloak sexism and hostility to Black people and non-White immigrants in its quest to create a White Christian America. Rev. John Dorhauer, formerly the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, recommends these strategies to counter Christian nationalism:

1. A good story beats a good argument. What are stories that have potential to shift hearts

 and minds in order to insert into the public narrative a progressive Christian voice?

 2. A changed life is more effective than a changed law. “How the UCC changed my life”

 stories are the best way to enter the marketplace of ideas, so let’s share them.

 3. Love is the most effective antidote to fear. Fundamentalism thrives on fear, so let us

 articulate a way of being church that is centered on love.