All Church Gathering

October 2, 2021

Workshop/Breakout Session

**Anti-racism/Pro-reconciling Ministry in the Local Congregation:**

**What is it? Why should we care? How can we get started?**

1. **What is it?**

* Anti-racism = **an awareness** that race/racism still impacts interpersonal and social relationships/interactions in American life today (government, business/employment/housing, financial, religious, legal/justice, education, etc.).

= **action** to positively and concretely change the ways that race/racism continues to impact interpersonal and social relationships/interaction in American life today (making amends).

* Pro-reconciling = anti-racist action is **an effort to bring healing/wholeness to a broken world** in the spirit of 2 Cor 5:17-19—“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, s/he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to God’s self and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to God’s self and giving us the message of reconciliation.”
* Ministry = this is something we do **as people of God in the name of Christ** to bring the resources of God to the needs of humanity.

1. **Why should we care?**

* It is a ministry priority of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) since 2001.
* It is an Upper Midwest Regional requirement for ministerial standing. (see CCUM web site/professional care and development policy: 4 hrs anti-racism experiences each year)
* It continues the liberating ministry of Jesus (Lk 4:16-21).
* It incarnates the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-37)—Our neighbors are in need. “Go and do likewise.”
* Why I care …

1. **How can we get started?**

* Pray! Not simply “should we do this or not”, but “does such a ministry flow naturally from my call to follow Christ/my call to ministry”? Pray for guidance and for a contrite spirit.
* Read the Bible. Search the scriptures to discover what the Bible says about race and human relationships (like the disciples at Beroea who in response to the message of Paul and Silas “examined the scriptures to see if these things were so” Acts 17:11).
* Learn about racism/anti-racism in American life (become familiar with the glossary of terms, read books, engage in a study group). Connect with CCUM AR/PR Team and/or Faithful Voices for Racial Justice. Participate in CCUM AR/PR “Open House” events.
* Find like-minded people in your congregation/community who want to engage in AR/PR ministry: “I feel called to this ministry; would you like to join me?” Form a congregational AR/PR team. Notice and call attention to issues of race in your community/State [I am from Iowa].
* Partner with people of color.
* Encourage/engage in anti-racism practices in your personal and congregational life.
* Form a local faith community coalition or connect with an existing faith community coalition working on racial justice and equity issues in your community/State.

RESOURCES

* CCUM web site/professional care and development policy <https://www.uppermidwestcc.org/>
* CCUM AR/PR Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/296249045111140>

Team members: Bryce Bowers, Candice Brown, Mary Jane Button-Harrison, Michael Carlson, Owen Cayton, Leslie Dalstra, Linda Tasler Hunsaker, Dawn Ingram, Jill Michel, Dan Mineck, Joshua Patty, Laurie Pound-Feille, Gary Sneller, Malinda Thomas, Kate West, Melea White, Tiff Williams

* CC (DoC) Reconciliation Ministry <https://reconciliationministry.org/>
* Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, Faithful Voices for Racial Justice project <https://faithful-voices.org/>
* **Books**

Pre-Post Racial America Sandhya Jha

Transforming Communities Sandhya Jha

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption Bryan Stevenson

The New Jim Crow Michelle Alexander

No One Cries When We Die Patrick Reyes

Between the World and Me Ta-Nehisi Coates

An Indigenous People's History of the United States Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

The Underground Railroad: A Novel Colson Whitehead

The Refugees (short story collection) Viet Thanh Nguyen

There, There Tommy Orange

The Absolute True Diary of A Part-Time Indian Sherman Alexie

A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America Ronald Takaki

So You Want To Talk About Race Ijeomo Oluo

ABC (graphic novel) Gene Luen Yang

The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of Richard Rothstein

How Our Government Segregated America

Citizen: An American Lyric Claudia Rankine

The Karma of Brown Folk (to be read alongside Vijay Prashad

The Souls of Black Folk)

The Souls of Black Folk W.E.B. DuBois

Unsettling Truths: The On-Going, Dehumanzing Mark Charles and Soong-

Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery Chan Rah

Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America's Legacy Dr. Joy Degruy

of Enduring Injury and Healing

Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in James Forman, Jr.

Black America

How Does It Feel to Be a Problem? Moustafa Bayomi

Being Young and Arab in America

Dying of Whiteness: How the Politics of Racial Jonathan Metzl

Resentment Is Killing America's Heartland

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard For White People Robin DiAngelo

to Talk About Racism

Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in 40 Questions Valeria Luiselli

The Color of Compromise Jemar Tisby

How to Fight Racism—Courageous Christianity and Jemar Tisby

the Journey Toward Racial Justice

Something in the Water: A 21st Century Civil Rights Michael Waters

Odyssey

Stamped from the Beginning—The Definitive History Ibram Kendi

of Racist Ideas in America

How to Be An Antiracist Ibram Kendi

My Grandmother’s Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Resmaa Menakem

Pathway to Mending our Hearts and Bodies

Nice Racism—How Progressive White People Robin DiAngelo

Perpetuate Racial Harm

Caste--The Origins of Our Discontents Isabel Wilkerson

The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone Heather McGhee

and How We Can Prosper Together

A People’s History of the United States Howard Zinn

* **Videos**

The Free State of Jones Freedom Riders

Mudbound Slavery by Another Name

The Help 13th

Loving Eyes on the Prize

When They See Us Dark Girls

Fruitvale Station Black America Since MLK: And

Do the Right Thing Still I Rise

12 Years a Slave The Uncomfortable Truth

Get Out I Am Not Your Negro

If Beale Street Could Talk Tulsa Burning: the 1921 Race

Selma Massacre

BlacKkKlansman

Just Mercy

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Rosewood