

Five Tools to Help Your Church Embody Racial Justice

CONSULTATION AND COACHING FOR CHURCH STAFFS, LEADERSHIP TEAMS, AND SMALL GROUPS

CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE Cultural Intelligence is about knowing the communication needs of the people we are in relationship with so that we can work together more authentically and effectively. To do this we have to be aware of our own invisible cultural scripts and know that our biases can blind us and prevent us from successfully engaging in cross-cultural relationships and ministry. Please contact Rev. Emma Williams to learn more (emma@ntcumc.org; 972-526-5054).

DISMANTLING WHITE FRAGILITY It is very difficult for white people to even speak of race, which prevents progress on racial justice. We need to move beyond getting stuck in thinking racism is only actions bad racist people do, when it's really a much broader system that affects even people of goodwill. Living into our Wesleyan vision of a perfect love of God and neighbor means engaging in the ongoing work of resisting the effects of racism that do continue to be present in our lives, but to which we are often blind. To learn more, please contact Rev. Andrew Fiser (fiser@ntcumc.org; 972-526-5018).

LENTEN STUDY GUIDE FOR *THE CROSS AND THE LYNCHING TREE* BY DR. JAMES CONE

"They put him to death by hanging him on a tree." (Acts 10:39)

The Cross and the Lynching Tree provides a provocative and relevant Lenten study for small groups in church congregations. Not only is the book a timely reflection on racism in this time of Black Lives Matter and tragedies like those of the Charleston church massacre, but also this theological work provides deep insights into what our primary Christian symbol really means and how the paradox of the cross informs our faith and congregational life. This "powerful and painful song for hope" is a perfect fit for Lent! To learn more, please contact Rev. Andrew Fiser (fiser@ntcumc.org; 972-526-5018). Free Study Guides available at ntcumc.org/missional-outreach!

PROJECT UNITY – TOGETHER WE DINE SERIES (YEAROFUNITY.COM)

Network with a diverse group of Dallas community members at Project Unity's Together We Dine events. Share a meal with total strangers as you engage in courageous and safe conversations about race relations, tell your experiences and listen to the stories of your fellow diners. By discussing our beliefs and differences over dinner, we hope that the Together We Dine experience will continue to prove that what unites us is greater than what divides us. The program is created by Project Unity with AT&T, St. Paul UMC, and the Dallas Bar Association.

UPCOMING EVENTS: *Forthcoming at YearofUnity.com*

"SO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT RACE?" UMW RACIAL JUSTICE EVENT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND 9AM – 3PM @ FIRST UMC ROWLETT This spiritual growth event is centered on Ijeoma Oluo's bestselling book "So You Want to Talk About Race?" The event will feature dialogue and discussion, Bible Study, multi-cultural potluck, and worship. Register (name, email, cell #, church affiliation) on/before 02.07.20 to Julie B. Noel (jbnumw@gmail.com) and contact Cynthia Rives with questions (cynrives@yahoo.com; 254.592.1510) NO charge to attend!

SPRING WEBINAR SERIES ON WHITE FRAGILITY AND ANTIRACISM

Spring webinars led by NTC leaders on how to equip lay leadership, staff, and whole congregations with tools and language to be able to talk constructively about race, as well as embody anti-racist practices as part of a Wesleyan understanding of accountable discipleship and sanctification. To learn more, please contact Rev. Andrew Fiser (fiser@ntcumc.org; 972-526-5018).

