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STEP THREE: TRANSFORMATIONAL WORK

ANTI-RACISM TRAINING

Touchstone Experience:

General Commission on Race and Religion

You are Here: First Steps for White Christians on Race and Religion

This resource is designed for individuals who are ready to learn about how racism operates, how it affects Christian communities, and how people of faith can recognize and resist racism. It offers opportunity for individual work as well as group reflection.

You can find this course on GCORR's website here: gcorr.teachable.com/p/youarehere
Please contact Rev. Andy Lewis (lewis@ntcumc.org) for information on discounts

Additional Reading Resources

"White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" by Peggy McIntosh

In this article Dr. Peggy McIntosh walks readers through the life of a white woman and how the seemingly mundane is actually privilege. McIntosh enumerates the daily effects of white privilege in her life. She does an excellent job highlighting the conditions that she lists are attached more to skin-color privilege and not class, religion, ethnicity, status or geographic location. Privilege is a good thing. How you acknowledge it and use it is the main thing.

You can find the article here:

psychology.umbc.edu/files/2016/10/White-Privilege_McIntosh-1989.pdf

*recommended reading before Session 2 of "You are Here"

Discussion guide found in the Appendix page 65

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Additional Reading Resources

Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World and Become a Good Ancestor

by Layla F. Saad

Layla Saad takes readers on a personal journey. This resource was written out of the original workbook produced by Saad as a result of the observation of white spiritual women and their complicity in white supremacy. The book challenges readers to look deep and look within to disarm the control of white supremacy in their lives. It takes readers on a 28-day journey to do the necessary work that can ultimately lead to improving race relations.

The Cross and the Lynching Tree by James Cone

This powerful work, James Cone explores the symbols of the cross and the lynching tree and their interconnection in the history and souls of black folk. If you want to help your congregation see the resilience, theology and perseverance of the African American community this book does that. It is a great primer for the Easter season.

*Discussion questions can be found on Appendix page 66

The Letters of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Resources curated by the UMW

King is a widely remembered, beloved leader, but many of us still have more to learn about his faith, work and yet-unrealized dream. The UMW has provided a deeper dive, asking: Who inspired Dr. King's theology? How did he live out a call to life-giving interruption? What does his example of deep discipleship mean for United Methodist Women, then and now?

*You can find the primary sources and discussion guides here:

unitedmethodistwomen.org/king

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Additional Reading Resources

I'm Still Here by Austin Channing Brown

This work details the life story of Austin Channing Brown, a Black woman and her journey toward self-worth in a “world made for whiteness.” It chronicles the many accounts of how our actions miss the mark of racial justice. *I'm Still Here*, takes a deep dive into Evangelicalism and its complicity and perpetuity of racial hostility.

*A discussion guide can be found here: austinchanning.com/printables

How To Be an Antiracist by Ibram Kendi

How to Be an Antiracist explains how racism is rooted in systems of policy and how people can become antiracist by noticing the differences in people while acknowledging a need for equality. Your church will find a framework of actionable steps in undoing racism. Kendi will help you explore what an anti-racist society might look like, how we can play an active role in building it and what being an ant racist in your own context might mean.

*A discussion guide can be found here: ibramxkendi.com/how-to-be-an-antiracist-1

The Very Good Gospel: How Everything Wrong Can Be Made Right

by Lisa Sharon Harper

In this book, Harper walks her readers through the divine beauty of shalom. Harper carefully explores the first few chapters of Genesis to establish what God meant by shalom. This resource is perfect to set the table for a theological framework in repairing the relationships of our world as it relates to race.

*Discussion questions can be found on Appendix page 67

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Additional Resources

Divided By Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America

by Michael Emerson and Christian Smith

Emerson and Smith conducted a 2,000 telephone survey and an additional 200 face-to-face interviews with white evangelical America. This book explores the findings of those interviews, indicating evangelicals themselves seem to be preserving America's racial chasm. This book will help your congregation explore the spectrum of racism and the reasons why Christians uphold the status quo.

Rescuing the Gospel From the Cowboys: A Native American Expression of the Jesus Way by Richard Twiss

Indigenous cultures were erased in the name of Christianity. Native peoples suffered the atrocities of rape, genocide and the pillaging of their land at the hands of white settlers. Despite this truth, some Natives have chosen to follow Jesus. In this book, Richard Twiss, contextualizes Indigenous expression of the Christian faith among the Native communities of North America. This work will assist your congregation in assessing US history, demystify the narrative of manifest destiny and the western way of credentialing.

*Discussion questions can be found on Appendix page 68

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Additional Experiential Resources

Participate in a Race Audit

Participating in a race audit can help determine the extent to which your systems and policies create, enable, or perpetuate inequitable conditions. A race audit seeks to uncover the specific structural mechanisms that generate cumulative racial disadvantage across domains, time and generations. The race audit's main goal – which falls outside the reach of most existing tools for measuring discrimination – would be achieved through the work of a “community of inquiry.” This could consist of academics, philanthropic organizations, non-profits and civil rights groups, governmental agencies, and business leaders charged with assessing the segregative effects of the locality's policies and programs. The race audit process, whose results might be similar to those produced by truth and reconciliation commissions, would produce a counter-narrative about race in your community.

Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE)

The Cost of Poverty Experience offers a glimpse into the lives of low-income people and families living in our community—the obstacles, decisions and consequences that impact them every day. This experience can be a catalyst in helping your entire congregation see poverty through the lens of race. Almost 1 in 3 Hispanics and African-Americans live below the poverty line. Your congregation may use this experience as an awareness opportunity and a catalyst to undo the racial inequities maintaining the interlocking systems of power that keep people in poverty.

*You can find more information, including cost and dates here: unitethechurch.org/cope

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Additional Online Resources

whiteallytoolkit.com

The white ally toolkit/Ally Conversation toolkit helps white anti-racism allies do their part in the fight against racism. The RACE Method includes best practices of non-violent communication. This method, included in the toolkit, assists white anti-racism allies in becoming more persuasive in conversations with racism skeptics.

The Danger of a Single Story by Chimamanda Adichie

In her Tedtalk Chimamanda Adichie takes her listeners on a journey through her life while intertwining the impact of power of story and access to books. The talk addresses the myopic avenues of storytelling that lends itself to a single narrative. The exclusion of voices of color are explored through the lens of her Nigerian life from childhood to adulthood. Ms. Adichie's talk is an innovative way to open up a session on racism, power and access as it helps the listeners examine their own lives and one-way narratives.

*You can find the video here:

[ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story](https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story)

Who Gets the Benefit of the Doubt? And Who Shouldn't by Lisa Brown (YouTube)

In this talk Dr. Lisa Brown explores the "post-racial America" myth surrounding the election of President Barack Obama. She explores violence against unarmed Black people as she dives into the depths of the criminal justice system in the US. In our society generally, who gets the benefit of the doubt? This primer conversation is an opportunity for your congregation to explore the dynamics of racism in the realm of the justice system and can be a helpful opening to the conversation around the disproportionate killings of black men and women by the police.

*You can find the video here: **[youtube.com/watch?v=KoNFQ5QM5Ys](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoNFQ5QM5Ys)**

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Additional Online Resources

Whiteness - Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre - aclrc.com/whiteness

In order to understand the construct of race, it is imperative to work through the concept and social construct of whiteness. This webpage helps readers ground their conversation in discerning the difference between whiteness and white people. This resource is foundational for informed conversation around the sin of racism and the social construct of race.

*recommended reading before or after Session 3 of "You are Here"

"We Need to Talk About an Injustice" by Bryan Stevenson

In an engaging and personal talk -- with cameo appearances from his grandmother and Rosa Parks -- human rights lawyer Bryan Stevenson shares some hard truths about America's justice system, starting with a massive imbalance along racial lines: a third of the country's black male population has been incarcerated at some point in their lives. These issues, which are wrapped up in America's unexamined history, are rarely talked about with this level of candor, insight and persuasiveness.

*You can find this video here:

ted.com/talks/bryan_stevenson_we_need_to_talk_about_an_injustice

Vital Conversations Series - General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR)

The United Methodist GCORR offer a number of videos covering many different experiences of race and religion, and provide discussion guides for continued thought and reflection.

*You can find this series here:

r-squared.squarespace.com/vital-conversations-series-home