

WE ARE CALLED! AND—MAY JOIN IN A RACIAL IMMERSION SEMINAR!

OPC is now a Matthew 25 Congregation, with the following areas of focus:

1. Eradicating systemic poverty.
2. Dismantling structural racism.
3. Building congregational vitality.

Currently our primary focus is Eradicating Systemic Poverty. However, the issue of Dismantling Structural Racism is ever present in the world in which we live and relates directly to the issue of poverty.

As part of OPC's Journey Outward, those who are interested in learning more about racism through experiences may want to consider the following learning trip, titled HIGHER GROUND JOURNEY TO ALABAMA. This is a five day/four night journey, stopping at significant civil right locations in Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma. The itinerary will include visits to locations such as Birmingham's Civil Rights Institute and 16thChurch Baptist Church, Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge, and the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute. Also included will be Montgomery's National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legency Museum. Participants will meet Caroline McKinstry, author and survivor of the bombing of the 16thBaptist Church and view Mike Wiley's production of Dar He; The Lynching of Emmett Till.

If you have read Bryan Stevenson's book Just Mercy, or seen the film on which it is based, you will have a sense of what you may encounter as you travel back in time to a painful era that haunts us still. This you will see at the sites in Montgomery.

The trip begins in Montgomery, AL and, given its duration and cost, we suggest that those who wish to go and experience this journey, register individually on the following website:

<https://highergroundjourneytoalabama-2020.evenbrite.com>

You will note this trip is in mid-August, 2020, an appropriate sequel to the National Civil Rights Conference being held at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio June 22-23, 2020. Also, the leadership team for the Presbyterian Women's Connection will be held Aug. 14-16 at Montreat, NC, just before the Alabama journey.

On a personal note, Rick and I plan to go after hearing from my brother David and his wife, Jeannene, how remarkable the trip was last summer. They are both graduates of Princeton Seminary; he is a Presbyterian pastor and she is a

spiritual director. Both are former missionaries. We think we know what racism is, but we often find that there is still a lot buried deeply, yet to be uncovered.

If you have questions, please contact me. Anne Bailey baileyaem@miamioh.edu