

Racial Ethnic Cabinet

Report to Presbytery

August 14, 2016

According to the Foothills mission and structure, the REC serves as an advocate and interpreter for racial ethnic opportunities and concerns to the Presbytery. Among other things we “address and offer effective witness regarding race relations, peacemaking, human suffering and other pressing issues within society that affect the racial ethnic community”. Above all, we join with the ministry of all churches in the Presbytery of living out the gospel of Jesus Christ, who commands us to love our neighbors and care for the “least of these”. What that means is loving especially those who are different from ourselves. The gospel is clear.

As a Church, our eyes have been opened to the state of racism in our country by folks like Jim Wallis, founder of Sojourners and author of “America’s Original Sin, Racism, white privilege and the Bridge to a New America”. In recent times there has been a re-awakening of racism when a young white man walked into Mother Emmanuel Baptist church in Charleston and killed nine African Americans; when Michael Brown was shot and killed by police as he tried to surrender; when Freddie Grey died while being transported in a police van; and when Eric Garner was choked to death by police for selling illegal cigarettes in New York. The aftermath of demonstrations and protests in Ferguson, MO, Baltimore, and New York, are the result of what the late Dr. Martin Luther King called the “the voice of the unheard”.

In light of what is happening in our country and the command of Jesus Christ to live out the gospel, the REC calls on the Churches of Foothills Presbytery to begin meaningful conversations on racism in your communities. The Church has the capacity to be a prophetic interrogator to shed light and bring down “ugly barriers of race to reveal the possibilities of a different American future”.

To do this the REC has compiled a list of resources, just for starters. You will find a one-page handout of these resources on the next page of this Supplement and on the registration tables at the Presbytery Meeting. You can start simply by listening to each other tell your stories of racism and then listen to African Americans tell their stories. This is just one of mine. When our youngest son Jonathan was in his junior year of college, he had an opportunity to study in Shang-Hai, China. Before he left home we had “the talk”. I said as seriously as a college student could hear, how important it was for him to obey the rules and laws of China. If he did not, we would be helpless to come to his aid. He got it. When Jon boarded the plane, and it took off for China, I was never so confident that he was going to be safe. He would be held accountable for any of his actions, but he would not be punished for the color of his skin. I felt he was safer in a country we criticize for its human rights violations, than I do in our country that proudly claims to be a democracy. That is my sad story.

Race & Reconciliation: Recommended Resources

Books for Adults



Kirkpatrick, Clifton. *Race and Reconciliation Workbook: the Confessions of 1967 and Belhar*. Louisville, KY: CPM, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), [2015]. (238.5137 Kirkpatrick 2015)



LaMotte, David. *Worldchanging 101: Challenging the Myth of Powerlessness*. Montreat, NC: Dryad Publishing, 2014. (361.2 LaMotte)



Ufford-Chase, Rick. *Faithful Resistance: Gospel Visions for the Church in a Time of Empire*. [Place of publication unknown]: [Unshelved], 2016. (277.3083 Ufford-Chase)



Wallis, Jim. *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2016. (305.800973 Wallis - WPC Library)



Harvey, Jennifer. *Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Racial Reconciliation*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2014. (277.3083089 Harvey - WPC Library)



Jha, Sandhya R.. *Pre-Post-Racial America: Spiritual Stories from the Front Lines*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2015. (277.3083 Jha - WPC Library)



Race in a Post-Obama America: The Church Responds. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2016. (305.800973 Race - WPC Library)

Young Adult Fiction



Reynolds, Jason and Brendan Kiely. *All American Boys*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2015. YA_FIC Reynolds - WPC Library (Ages 12 & up)



Schmidt, Gary D. *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*. New York: Clarion Books, 2004. J_FIC Schmidt - WPC Library (Grades 7-12)

Children's & Tween Books



Kissinger, Katie. *All the Colors We Are/Todos los colores de nuestra piel: The Story of How We Get Our Skin Color*. (20th Anniversary edition) St. Paul, MN: Redleaf Press, 2014. (E_612.7927 Kissinger - WPC Library) Ages 3+; Bilingual



Lester, Julius. *Let's Talk about Race*. New York: HarperCollins, 2005. Ages 4-8



Polacco, Patricia. *Mr. Lincoln's Way*. New York: Philomel Books, 2001. (E_FIC Polacco - WPC Library) Grades 1-4



Tyler, Michael. *The Skin You Live In*. Chicago, IL: Chicago Children's Museum, 2005. (E_FIC Tyler - WPC Library) Ages 4-8



Whitsitt, Claudia. *Between the Lines*. Twisted Vines Press, 2015. Ages 10+

Teachers' Resource



Ramsey, Patricia G. *Teaching and Learning in a Diverse World: Multicultural Education for Young Children*. St. Paul, MN: Redleaf Press, 2015.

Conferences & Organizations



DISGRACE: Seeking God's Grace Amid the Disgrace of Racism (Montreat Conference Center, October 10 - 13, 2016) <http://www.montreat.org/disgrace/>



Speaking Down Barriers (organization) <http://speakingdownbarriers.org/> Transforms life together across differences by facilitating community dialogue, training, performances, and consultation. Foothills Presbytery's Scott Neely is a leader in this organization, which holds monthly gatherings in Greenville and Spartanburg.

Foothills Presbytery Resource Center – 2242 Woodruff Road, Simpsonville, SC 29681 – (864) 288-5774
<http://fprc.scoolid.net>

Hours: Mon-Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Internet Resources

Call to Confession: Race, White Privilege and the Church

<http://justiceunbound.org/journal/call-to-confession/>

Articles acknowledging, confessing, and interrupting racism and white privilege in the majority-white Church. This is the Spring 2016 theme-based online issue of *Unbound, An Interactive Journal of Christian Social Justice*, published by the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy ("ACSWP") of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) This issue added 5-7 articles each week over a 5-week period

I am sorry [streaming video]

<http://www.theworkofthepeople.com/i-am-sorry>

This powerful 5:27 minute visual liturgy from Work of the People includes text on the screen with background music. As of 7/13/16 the entire video could be previewed in a reduced size image without individual purchase or a subscription.

Seeing Whiteness: Exercises in Understanding Race

<http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2016-06/seeing-whiteness>

Cover article from Christian Century, July 20, 2016 issue

The Struggle: A Black Mother's Perspective, by CKrystal Stokes.

<http://humaneeducation.org/blog/2016/08/04/struggle-black-mothers-perspective/>

Blog posting from 8/4/16 on the Humane Education website

"White Parents: We Need to Have 'The Talk' with Our Kids and Police Chiefs" (Sojourners, 7/14/2016)

<https://sojo.net/articles/white-parents-we-need-have-talk-our-kids-and-police-chiefs>

Every black parent in America has to have "the talk" with his or her sons and daughters — about how to act and not act in the presence of white police officers with guns. Wallis recommends that white parents and grandparents also have a talk about racialized policing with their children and grandchildren

Get Home Safely (Streaming video, 01:53 minutes) Aired: 02/04/2015 on WFYI-Indianapolis (PBS)

<https://vimeo.com/116706870>

After Michael Brown's death, an important infographic, "10 Rules Of Survival If Stopped By The Police" was developed by David Miller, founder of "The Dare To Be King Project." In partnership with CTS, WFYI, and Trinity UCC (on the south side of Chicago), SALT has taken Miller's rules and created a short film to bring this critical information to an even wider audience and help save even more lives.

How to Teach Kids about What's Happening in Ferguson (*The Atlantic*, August 15, 2014)

<http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2014/08/how-to-teach-kids-about-whats-happening-in-ferguson/379049/>

A crowd sourcing syllabus about race, African American history, civil rights, and policing

The Danger of a Single Story (TEDGlobal, 2009)

https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en

(Streaming video, 18:49 minutes)

Our lives, our cultures, are composed of many overlapping stories. Novelist Chimamanda Adichie tells the story of how she found her authentic cultural voice—and warns that if we hear only a single story about another person or country, we risk a critical misunderstanding

5 steps for using "Trip to the Grocery Store" to talk about Race"

<http://blog.world-trust.org/blog/5-steps-for-using-trip-to-the-grocery-store-to-talk-about-race>

Includes a 4-minute embedded video clip from CRACKING THE CODES which validates the experience of many people of color while showing white people how they can use their cultural privilege for positive change in everyday life.

An expanded list of resources ("Pathfinder") is available on the Resource Center's website: <http://bit.ly/2aJoFFJ>

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<http://fprc.scoolaid.net>

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Note: Links on these pages do not work.