

DRM Blog for Sunday October 24 and 31.

Did You Know? It Happens Here...

Participation in “Sacred Ground”

Rich Hiskes

One thing I'll say about being stuck inside for months during the pandemic, it was a great opportunity for self-reflection--er, seemingly endless self-reflection. For me, what made this time not just bearable but rewarding, social, and even entertaining was my participation in the series run by St. Mark's Dismantling Racism Ministry named “Sacred Ground.” This wonderful program utilizes films, readings and group discussion broadly on the topic of how to confront our own and our community's history of racial ignorance and bias.

At our monthly Zoom meetings, our small group would open our hearts and histories to explore how we came to realize and express our feelings and beliefs about race in America, in Grand Rapids, and in our church. It was an extraordinary experience in self-knowledge to share with others our often-hidden fears of difference. As we grew in friendship with each other and laughed at our own awkward attempts at broaching a racial divide at work, school, or church, we knew we were growing into what we always professed to be—not color blind, but *color-full* Christians willing to face up to our own and our nation's acts of racial injustice. And overcome them. It was an extraordinarily enriching experience to be part of this program with its truly excellent curriculum.