

## Sacred Ground

Concerned about the rise of violent white supremacy after the shooting a year ago at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, and then in 2 mosques in Christ Church, New Zealand last March, a few of us at St. Luke's Cathedral felt called to do *something*. We decided to engage in the film and dialogue series **Sacred Ground**, put out by The Episcopal Church. This series is designed to be very user-friendly, with a set curriculum spread out over many months, which we are also able to alter as needed. After several meetings, three of us were ready to see what response this offering would bring from the parish. At our information fair, the roster of people wanting to attend filled right up. So now we have begun, and finished session 3 of the ten session curriculum.

Each session has reading and viewing homework beforehand, which means that the topics to be discussed are clear and easy to keep on track. We are finding the learning curve to be high on history we had not previously been taught. Discussion points come with each session, where we also consider more closely our personal past, and that of our ancestors.

*Waking up White* is one of the core books of the program, and provides a non-defensive account of one woman awakening to, and coming to terms with privilege she did not know she had. All of these elements have contributed to a highly engaged group, grateful for the learning and processing we are able to do. We have already posed the question as to what might come out of this in a tangible form when we are done. I look forward to speaking with anyone who has any questions about **Sacred Ground**, and to serve as a resource if you are considering pulling together a group to do this holy work.

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Sacred Ground link: <https://episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground>