

November 3, 2021 BBC

Prayer & Check-in

- Justice themes that currently have our attention right now:
 - CRT: Concern about all of the mis-information about it and resistance to it (especially seen in election results). Concern also around how to even engage the conversations when so many simply won't accept that white people made terrible choices and that those choices ended in the extreme privileges of white people. Grief over the sense that healing does not feel realistic in the current milieu
 - Concern about school suspensions, but celebration that KCMO has banned them & there is intensive ongoing work aimed at all other local districts
 - KCKPD—some hope coming from MORE2 efforts and from potential support that could come from Mayor-elect Tyrone Garner
 - Upcoming Milestone Events to prepare for: 2023—anniversary of “I Have A Dream” speech & 2026—250th anniversary of country who never made good on the check written to many in this country
 - Investment in NAACP work for education on CRT
 - Investment in virtual studies on Racial Healing; follow-up studies; discussion of Racism in Kansas City: A Short History coming in January
 - Working on exoneration of wrongly convicted
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Planning Devotions:

- Mark to send dates he wants to schedule us to film our devotions
- Each clergy person from our group has 3-4 devotions assigned to them. If you do not want all of those assigned to you, then you are free to invite a clergy colleague to take any of yours. If you do this, you need to connect them via email to Mark Harmon so that they can also schedule their time to film. Be sure to communicate which dates you've given to someone else.
- Here is the link to look at the assigned devotions. <https://1drv.ms/x/s!AvduSFNNCVWtvWmcwinOfLrh0zIL?e=rDgQOI>.
- Those dates highlighted in yellow have a Civil Rights connection for a leader or event that happened on that date. Bob Hill will send us the details tonight. So, feel free to lean on that topic if one of those is your assigned date.
- All filming should be completed by Nov 15th
- No devotion should be longer than 5 minutes. Aim for 2 minutes.
- Remember that the goals of these devotions are:
 - To expose people to scripture-rooted reasons to engage in anti-racism work and/or to better understand our faith's/ the Bible's opposition to racism/ promotion of reconciliation and reparations.
 - To expand our capacity by connecting people to the ways they can be involved in the work of BBC. When people see the devotion, they will also be invited to click on links

that connect them to various ways to get involved in the work...and will invite them to sign up for the things they are interested in.

- Promotion: Mindy will draft an invitation/explanation to be sent to all churches and clergy. She will ask congregations to include the link to the devotions in all of their emails throughout Advent; to share on social media; etc. Mindy will also share with MORE2 leaders to see if they will share among their contacts, but especially in both clergy caucuses. Each of us should be sharing in the venues we use. Consider making the link a part of your email “signature” during Advent.

Processing the concerning issues of our community—

- opposition to/ weaponizing of CRT is the biggest concern of the team at the moment.
- We are all invited to pray around the ways we can further invest in what is a long-term effort to change the trend of people blindly embracing a hostility they don't even understand.
- We are all invited to collect resources that we have found useful tools/media/writing that explains CRT well, and/or that helps people to see how it has been misrepresented and weaponized. Send all resources to the group via email. We may be able to make these available regionally.
- We would also need to be intentional about connecting people with the resources (these could be a link to click on the Advent devotions: “Understanding Critical Race Theory”)

Reports

- MORE2 tickets bought by BBC:
 - In person: 2 for North Oak CC, 2 for Shawnee Community CC members, 2 for Exec Director of Grace United Community Center near IBCC, 1 for Jessica from Regional Office
 - Virtual: 2 for New Vision CC (James Vertrees)
 - Total cost after Lora discounted 4 of the tickets by \$5 each, \$610
 - We had approved \$600, so Mindy is donating \$10 to BBC to cover the difference.

Evaluation

Prayer

Next meeting: Dec 1, 130-3pm...NOTE that Rev. April Johnson from the General Church Reconciliation Ministry will be joining us for conversation at this meeting to discuss ways we might partner on providing some theological statements on some of the current race-related concerns