Sacred Conversations to End Racism - Restorative Racial Justice Journey

In 2018 Sacred Conversations to End Racism (SC2ER), a Restorative Racial Justice Journey curriculum was created to address racism within the Christian Church and society. The study guide and accompanying resources debunks and corrects myths that claim Europeans are a dominant culture. God did not create dominant people groups.

The Christian Church, U.S. Supreme Court, and U.S. government officials practiced and instituted structural and systemic racism through policies and laws supporting race myths as truths producing the outcome plaguing society today known as racism. The laws and policies created over the last 400 years continue to impact predominately people of African descent globally. However, all communities of non-European ancestry are impacted by racism, xenophobia, discrimination, oppression, and racial micro and macroaggressions daily.

Sacred Conversation to End Racism moves us beyond just talking about the realities of racism, white supremacy, and white privilege in its many forms. It challenges us to decolonize our very thinking and ways of being, and then leads us to take action to shape a new theology and way of being. This is a groundbreaking resource connected to a strategy and plan of action to end racism throughout our relationships and communities. It is more than another call to action it is a demand to transform into the reality of who God calls us to be. If you consider yourself to be a person of justice, you must take the journey.

Rev. Marvin Silver, Associate Conference Minister - Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ

Dominant cultures and superior people groups do not exist. Race categories were created to justify practices of genocide and enslavement. The practices harming and violating people of color are considered crimes against humanity—trafficking humans for labor, profit, and ethnic cleansing for the purposes of land theft, and wealth accumulation. These present-day realities must be addressed by the Christian Church.

Sacred Conversations to End Racism includes learning tools and resources such as books, videos, documentaries, articles, art, and music. SC2ER resources represent cultures and people groups whose lived experiences and perspectives are correctives to the historical and contemporary harm, injury, and trauma enacted upon non-European people groups. The ongoing impact of racism and xenophobia in contemporary society requires participants to commit to a life-long journey of dismantling racism and a commitment to do no harm.

Everyone is invited to be on the journey as a witness and transformative presence with God’s beloved inclusive global community.

Participants on the SC2ER journey:

1. Explore relevant and practical ways to have conversations that are inclusive of diverse cultures and ethnic identities
2. Engage with biblical texts regarding equitable treatment of all God’s people
3. Gain an understanding of the historical and contemporary myths associated with race
4. Participate in active listening and response techniques
5. Learn inclusive non-colonial terms for people groups
6. Develop strategies to move from conversations to advocacy and activism

The Sacred Conversations to End Racism study reeducates and corrects historical narratives and uses culture-centered resources to decolonize ones thinking and decenter whiteness. The intensive study introduces daily life and spiritual practices and assists participants to take a deeper look into—history, how one is socialized, and examine cultural-ethnic ways of being.

Anti-racism work involves an inward interrogation of biases, prejudices, internalized white supremacy and internalized racism, microaggressive insults and assaults, and overt racist behaviors.

Restorative racial justice work is internal and external. God did not create superior people groups. Therefore, Christians who claim solidarity with Jesus are called to radical and prophetic ministries of equity, liberation, and justice for all.

RACIAL JUSTICE & ANTI-RACISM READING RESOURCES

   _______ White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard For White People to Talk About Racism, (Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2018).

Additional Reading Resources
   


   
   
   *Disrupting White Supremacy from Within*, (Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 2008).

**Viewing Resources**

**How Just Six Words Can Spark Conversation About Race in America - YouTube**

- Equal Justice Initiative: About EJI
- The Origins of Lynching Culture in the United States - YouTube
- Legacy of the Little Rock Nine: Featuring Enest Green & Melba Pattillo Beals, PhD - YouTube
- Ignoring White Privilege and Racism in the Church | The Interview - YouTube
- Whitewashed: Unmasking the World of Whiteness - YouTube
- Racism - Confessions of a Christian Nation - YouTube
- 'We the People' - the three most misunderstood words in US history | Mark Charles | TEDxTysons - YouTube
- Discovered? Or Stolen! Repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery - YouTube
- The Roots Of Anti-Asian Racism - YouTube
- White Supremacy, 4 Years After Charlottesville - YouTube
- White Savior: Racism in the American Church Trailer - YouTube
- Reverend: White supremacy sometimes "masquerades as faith" in Christian churches - YouTube