



DISMANTLING RACISM

A Community Dialogue Series

“Bringing It Home” Discussion Guide – Class 1
note: use or adapt any of these questions as you see fit

What’s one thing that stuck with you from this month’s session?

We are a predominately white congregation in a predominately white community. Do we spend time talking about what this may mean for us in the life of our mission and ministry? If so, where and when do those conversations occur? If not, what’s holding us back?

How often does whiteness come up in our conversations around racial justice? When discussing how white folks or white culture interacts with racial justice work, how often do we use words like “me” and “us?” How often do we use words like “they” and “them?”

What feelings, fears or hopes typically emerge when our congregation discusses (or avoids discussing) issues of racial justice? Are there underlying assumptions or beliefs that influence these feelings?

In what ways do we as a predominately white congregation approach racial justice work from an intellectual distance (i.e. something to learn about in a more detached matter)? In what ways do we approach racial justice work with a deeply personal lens?

What does it look like for our community to show up for racial justice in a healthy, self-aware manner?

As a congregation, how do we invest our time and energy for racial justice learning and work when it comes to arenas that are (1) within our control (2) within our influence (3) within our concern, though beyond our direct influence? Take a moment to come up with a percentage for each. Remember that the circle of control is often if not always directly limited to the self.

Are there any lingering questions that are sitting with us as we move forward from this space?

