



DISMANTLING RACISM

A Community Dialogue Series





Bringing It Home Guide Class 2 - October 19, 2020

October Recap

We opened our time together with a land acknowledgement shared by Phyllis Messenger, archaeologist and member of St. Luke Church. We started with a brief analysis and small group discussion of how power is distributed in major sectors of the US economy. Then, we introduced the main focus of this month's session - How did the U.S. become a white dominant culture? After a brief history of whiteness, we considered how white people rationalize and justify their dominance and reflected on current manifestations of centuries of trauma. In breakout groups, we discussed the benefits and drawbacks of maintaining a white dominant culture and how it feels to us to be part of this history.

October Prepare. Talk. Act.

These personal practice exercises are designed to help each of us dismantle racism by preparing ourselves, engaging in dialogue and taking action into our daily lives.

<p>PREPARE</p> 	<p>Watch these two short videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 400 Years from Slaves Arriving in Virginia an MSNBC interview of Nikole Hannah Jones and Treymane Lee (7:55 min) • All White People Were Created Equal: White Privilege in America (3:47 min) <p>Explore the Mapping Prejudice web site created by the University of Minnesota to learn how racial covenants changed the face of Hennepin County over time</p>
<p>TALK</p> 	<p>Review the “Experiences of People of Color in Minnesota” handout (attached to this email) and share at least one fact about economic realities for Black people, Indigenous people, and People of Color in Minnesota with three people</p>
<p>ACT</p> 	<p>Vote and encourage others to vote through conversation and social media</p> 

October Bringing It Home Discussion Questions

We encourage you to consider gathering for a monthly conversation within your own congregational communities to deepen your understanding and help make important connections. These discussion questions are meant to support your congregational reflection on what dismantling racism work might entail for your specific context. You'll find a wide variety of questions here – feel free to take, leave, or adapt any of them as you see fit. The goal is simply to bring the conversation home.

1. What's one thing that stuck with you from this month's session?
2. As a predominately white congregation in a predominately white community, what do we know about the history of our denomination in the United States? How did our denomination interact with indigenous peoples? What stance did our denomination have on abolition? Was our denomination run by white people? Was it segregated?
3. How has this denominational history been addressed in our congregation?
4. What do we know about the racial history of our congregation?
5. What do we know about the history of the land where our congregation is located? What peoples lived here first? Were there treaties? Were the treaties honored? Was the land ceded? How do we discuss and acknowledge the original inhabitants?
6. After reviewing the [Mapping Prejudice](#) project, what do we know about our congregation's location? Are or were there racial covenants in our area? What do we know about the demographics of our community and how is that reflected in our congregation?
7. How are the economic characteristics of our congregation similar to or different from those detailed in the "Experiences of People of Color in Minnesota" handout?
8. Are there any lingering questions that are sitting with us as we move forward from this space?

History of Whiteness Timeline

