



DISMANTLING RACISM

A Community Dialogue Series

Bringing It Home Guide Class 7 - March 2021

[Click here](#) to contribute to a survey that will help us finalize the topics of our discussion groups for Class #8.

March Recap

This month, participants explored becoming allies for BIPOC. We talked about some essential building blocks for white people who want to become racial justice allies. We considered three focus area options and discussed possible first steps for each of us.

- Conversations with other white people about racism
- Address systemic racism in your area of interest and/ or influence
- Forming authentic/ reciprocal relationships with BIPOC

March 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.

PREPARE	Read: Guidelines for Being Strong White Allies by Paul Kivel And/Or View: SURJ of Poudre River video (Recommend section from 59:40 to 1:12:40)
TALK	Partner with someone else participating in this class to discuss your choice of a "Next Step" toward becoming a Racial Justice Ally. Brainstorm first steps.
ACT	Take first steps toward your chosen approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a conversation with someone about race OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research organizations working in your area of interest with which you could make a connection OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look into multicultural organizations where you can tribute but not take over leadership.

March 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.

Note: Participants who are not part of a participating congregation are welcome to join in a Zoom session on Sunday morning with St. Luke Presbyterian or Monday evening with Minnetonka United Methodist Church. Contact Brennan@stluke.mn (St. Luke) or hello@jenmein.org (MUMC) for dates and link information.

1. What is one thing that stuck with you from the last session?
2. Discuss the difference between the terms: ally, accomplice and co-conspirator.
3. Discuss what you think of as the role for white people in dismantling racism?
How might we, individually and collectively, continue to increase our self-awareness and accountability as white people working on dismantling racism?
4. In our March class, we spoke of the need for cultural humility and awareness of our white lens as we do this work. Explore these concepts and share examples of how they look in practice.
5. In our March class, we suggested 3 possible areas for next steps:
 - Conversations with other white people about racism;
 - Address systemic racism in your area of interest and/ or influence;
 - Forming authentic/ reciprocal relationships with BIPOC.

Which of the above areas interests each of you as a place to start? And, as a possible direction for your group or congregation?

What questions and barriers come up for you? What is one step you could take to overcome those barriers?

6. Are there any lingering questions as we move forward?

As we shift our focus from inner work to outward advocacy, we'd like to offer a few concentrated opportunities for people within this Dismantling Racism group to explore coalition building and local advocacy work. Please take this short survey to let us know which elements of systemic racism you would be most interested in learning about and ultimately confronting (individually or with others) in our places of local influence.

If you have not already participated in the survey, [click here](#) to let us know what elements of systemic racism you are interested in influencing.

We really need your input on this, so PLEASE take a few minutes to respond **no later than April 2.**