

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION: TWELVE-STEP RECOVERY FROM RACISM AND BIGOTRY

Preamble:

The purpose of this group is to face up to the effects of systemic racism and bigotry in our daily lives and to seek transformation of our relationships with ourselves, others, and the Spirit that seeks to unite us.

We seek a willingness to stop racism, bigotry, privilege and oppression from affecting our lives and the lives of others.

Racism and bigotry are deceptive, deep and powerful. Some people are weighed down by its effects daily. Others wish not to see its effects on our brothers and sisters. Yet we all believe that addressing racism is a necessary spiritual step to build the Beloved Community.

We believe that facing racism is a spiritual process that demands rigorous honesty regarding the effects of racism and bigotry in us. We seek to see the lies of racism, unlearn them, and over time become the people we are created to be.

We are willing to take these steps, to grow along spiritual lines.

1. Admit that we are powerless over the pervasive and persistent presence of racism and bigotry in us, and that our lives have become less than we are called to be.
2. Come to believe that a power greater than ourselves can restore us to the loving, caring and compassionate human beings we are intended to be.
3. Make a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, as we understand God.
4. Make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admit to God, ourselves and another human being the exact nature of the racism and bigotry we discovered in that fearless search.
6. Become entirely ready to have God remove all of these racist and bigoted defects that have affected our lives and the lives of others.
7. Humbly ask God to remove these thoughts and actions.
8. Make a list of the persons we have harmed with our privilege, racism or bigotry and be willing to make amends to them all.
9. Make direct amends to such people whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continue to take personal inventory in our daily lives and when we are wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Seek through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of the will of God and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we try to carry this message to others and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

SOME RESOURCES ON DISMANTLING RACISM

- ***I Am Not Your Negro*** (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Am_Not_Your_Negro)
A documentary film based on James Baldwin's unfinished manuscript, *Remember This House*.
- **16 Shots Podcast:** <https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/wbez/16-shots>
- **TED Talk by Bryan Stevenson** (2012): [We need to talk about an injustice](https://www.ted.com/talks/bryan_stevenson_we_need_to_talk_about_an_injustice)
https://www.ted.com/talks/bryan_stevenson_we_need_to_talk_about_an_injustice
- **TED Talk by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie:**
https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story
- **Counter Stories (MPR)** Race, identity, social justice and culture:
<https://www.mprnews.org/topic/counter-stories>
- **Dr. Robin D'Angelo:** <https://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/white-fragility-why-its-so-hard-to-talk-to-white-people-about-racism-twlm/>
- **Kenneth Jones and Tema Okun:** [White Supremacy Culture: From Dismantling Racism: A Workbook for Social Change Groups](http://www.csworkshop.org/PARC_site_B/dr-culture.html): http://www.csworkshop.org/PARC_site_B/dr-culture.html
- ***The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration***, Isabel Wilkerson.
Story of the Great Migration and the Second Great Migration, the movement of African Americans out of the Southern United States to the Midwest, Northeast and West from approximately 1915 to 1970.
- ***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*** Maya Angelou.
- ***Notes of a Native Son, The Fire Next Time, No Name in the Street, Remember this House***, James Baldwin.
- ***A Raisin in the Sun***, Lorraine Hansberry. *Story of a black family's experiences in the Washington Park Division of Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood as they attempt to "better" themselves with an insurance payout following the death of the father.*
- ***Between the World and Me***, Ta-Nehisi Coates *Written as a letter from an African-American father to his son.*
- ***Just Mercy***, By Bryan Stevenson (<http://bryanstevenson.com/>)
A true story about race in the criminal justice system, the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a call to fix our system of justice.
- ***Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God***, Kelly Brown Douglas *offers an extended lament over the denigration and criminalization of young black men in the US.*
- ***Stamped from the Beginning: the Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America***, Ibram Kendi.
- ***A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota***, Edited by Sun Yung Shin (<http://www.mnhs.org/mnhspress/books/good-time-truth>) *Sixteen of Minnesota's best writers provide a range of perspectives on what it is like to live as a person of color in Minnesota, which we must understand if we are to come together in real relationships.*