

The background is a gradient of deep purple and blue, speckled with small white dots. On the left side, there are several concentric circles and a large circular scale with numbers ranging from 40 to 260. Some of the circles have arrows indicating a clockwise direction. The overall aesthetic is technical and futuristic.

OVERCOMING RACISM IN SPITE OF OUR BLINDERS

REV. ELIZABETH BIER & REV. JEN COLLINS

SAINT PAUL AREA SYNOD OF ELCA

LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR TODAY

- To increase our awareness...
 - 1.) We all have biases
 - 2.) To see how our biases are formed
- To increase awareness of our Blinders- unconscious and implicit biases and their effects
- To create common understandings of the terms “single story,” “Blinders or bias” and “dominant culture”
- Develop a capacity to identify and take actionable steps to remove “blinders”
 - Places within your spheres of influence where changes in your actions can make a profound difference
 - No one can do everything, but everyone can do something...especially to begin to improve outcomes we care about and as people who care/invested/willing we have many potential places and spaces to influence individuals and systems.

DANGER OF A SINGLE STORY

CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

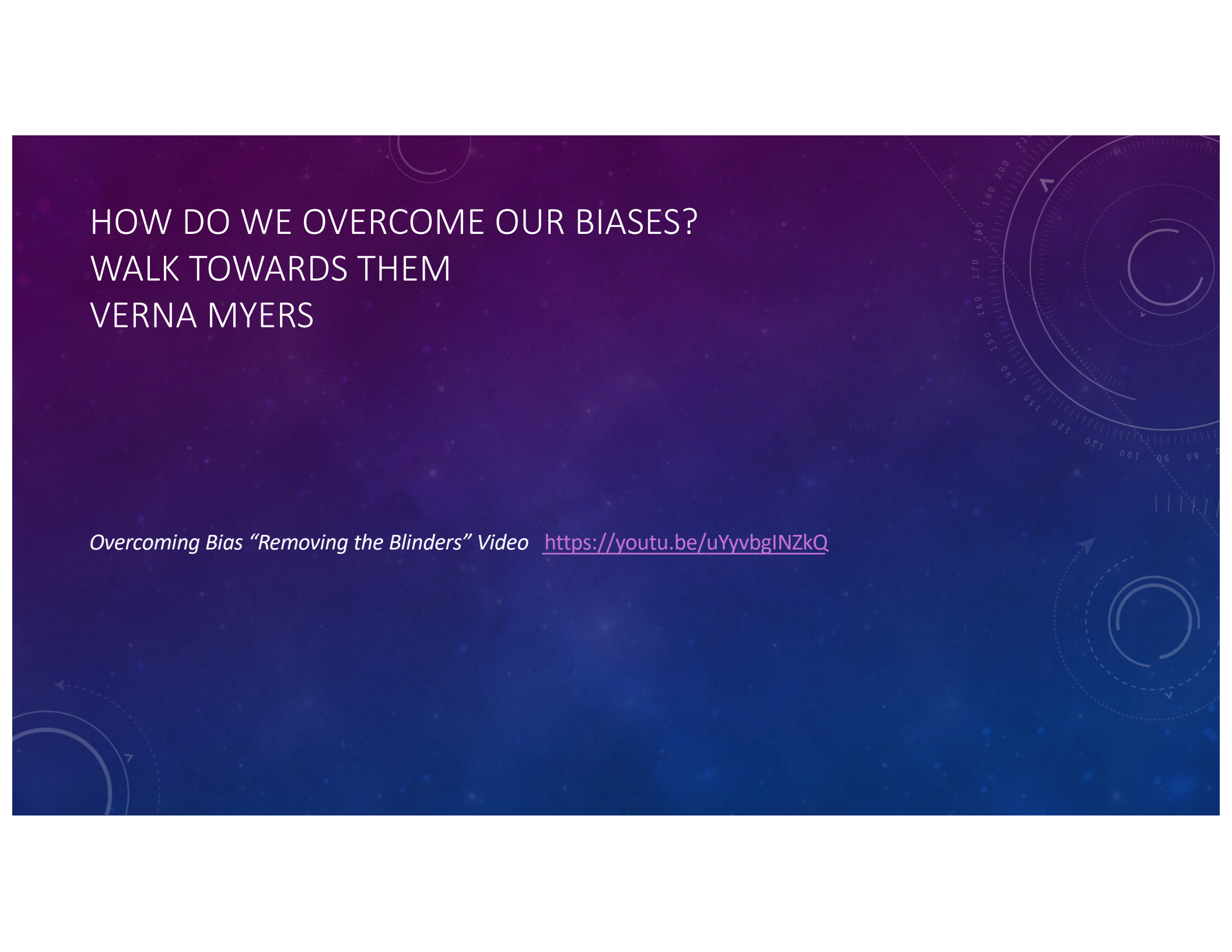
- Video- The danger of a single story (End @ 9:37) <https://youtu.be/D9lhs241zeg>



NEIGHBOR CONVERSATIONS

- Think of an example of where you hold a single story.
- How does it feel, for you, to realize that you carry a single story?
- After both have shared ask: What are ways you can work to remove the blinder and change your single story?





HOW DO WE OVERCOME OUR BIASES? WALK TOWARDS THEM VERNA MYERS

Overcoming Bias “Removing the Blinders” Video <https://youtu.be/uYyvbglNZkQ>



TAKE HOME- WHAT'S NEXT?

- *What is an action that you can imagine taking in the next month?*
- *Write down a hope you take forward from today.*
- *Write down a commitment you will take forward from tonight.*

Verna Myers says, "You are not going to get comfortable until you get uncomfortable"

- ❖ Get out of denial
- ❖ Walk toward others
- ❖ Act- see something say something

