

SACRED CONVERSATIONS  
TO **END** RACISM



**SACRED CONVERSATIONS TO END RACISM  
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE JOURNEY  
UCC RACIAL JUSTICE MINISTER, REV. DR. VELDA R. LOVE**

*“Race is not Real. Race does not exist biologically nor anthropologically, neither is there any reference to race in the 66 canonized books of the Bible. Race is neither scientific nor sacred. Race is an artificial social construct, and it serves a social function..*

***Racism is Real.** Racism originates from the unholy belief that there are human groups with particular social and physical characteristics that make them superior or inferior to another human group. – Rev. Traci Blackmon, Executive Minister, Justice and Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ*

**Where are we today regarding race relations within the Christian Church and Society?**

The United Church of Christ remains committed to being an anti-racist church. However, we are facing a resurgence of tactics and behaviors that call for a deeper commitment to eradicate the ongoing practices of oppression, hate speech, individual bigotry, and overt violence against people of African, Asian, Latinx, Native and Indigenous Americans, and immigrant populations.

*You are invited to begin a restorative justice journey with Sacred Conversations to End Racism (SC2ER). Sacred Conversations to End Racism Restorative Justice Study Guide is intended to lead participants into conversations that brings a greater awareness of what it means to be a human being and people with diverse cultural ways of being in the world. Who are the first humans? When did these humans first appear? How did they survive and navigate their way across the continents? The SC2ER journey uncovers the history that is foundational to the how race categories were constructed, who constructed and sanctioned race as a model for American society, and what role the Christian Church played in supporting the division of humanity by skin color categories as a means for instituting global European colonialism and imperialism.*

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### Biblical Resources

1. Page, Jr., Hugu R., *The Africana Bible: Reading Israel's Scriptures from Africa and the African Diaspora*, (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2010).
2. Adamo, David Tuesday, *Africa and The Africans in the Old Testament*, (San Francisco, CA: Christian Universities Press, 1998).  
*Africa and Africans in the New Testament*, (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2006).
3. Robinson, Elaine A., *Race and Theology*, Horizons in Theology, (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2012).
4. De La Torre, Miguel, A., *Reading the Bible from the Margins*, (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2002).  
*Burying White Privilege Resurrecting A Badass Christianity*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B Eerdmans Publishing, 2019).
5. DeYoung, Curtiss, Editor, *The People's Companion to the Bible*, (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2010).
6. Whelchel, L.H., Jr., *The History and Heritage of African American Churches*, (St. Paul, MN: Paragon House, 2011).
7. Gafney, Wilda C., *Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to the Women of the Torah and the Throne*, (Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2017).
8. Byron, Gay, and Vanessa Lovelace, *Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse*, (Atlanta, GA: SBL, 2016).
9. Grant, Jacqueline, *White Women's Christ and Black Women's Jesus: Feminist Christology and Womanist Response*, (Atlanta, GA: Scholars Press, 1989).

### Cultural Historical and Contemporary Reading Resources

1. Van Sertima, Ivan, *They Came Before Columbus: The African Presence in Ancient America*, (New York, NY: Random House, 1976).
2. Kendi, Ibram X., *Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, (New York, NY: Nation Books, 2016).  
*How To Be An Antiracist*, (New York, NY: Random House, 2019).
3. DiAngelo, Robin, *What Does It Mean To Be White? Developing White Racial Literacy*, (Peter Lang Publishing, 2012).  
*White Fragility: Why It's So Hard For White People to Talk About Racism*, (Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2018).
4. Brown Douglas, Kelly, *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God*, Books, (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2015).
5. Resmaa, Menakem, *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*, (Central Recovery Press: Las Vegas, NV, 2017).
6. Dunbar-Ortiz, Roxanne. *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*. (Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2014).
7. Ortiz, Paul. *An African American and Latinx History of the United States*. (Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2018).
8. Higginbotham, Leon A., Jr., *Shades of Freedom: Racial Politics and Presumptions of the American Legal Process*, (New York, NY: Oxford Press, 1996).
9. Cone, James, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2011).
10. Horsman, Reginald, *Race and Manifest Destiny: The Origins of American Racial Anglo-Saxonism*, (London, England: Harvard University Press, 1981).
11. Harvey, Jennifer, *Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Racial Reconciliation*, (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2014).  
*Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America*, (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2017).  
*Disrupting White Supremacy from Within*, (Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 2008).
12. Roediger, David R., *Working Towards Whiteness: How America's Immigrants Became White*,

(New York, NY: Basic Books, 2005).

13. Washington, Harriet A., *Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present*, (New York, NY: Harlem Moon, 2006).
14. Mills, Charles, *The Racial Contract*, (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1997).

#### Viewing Resources

- Reconstruction After the Civil War Part I & II  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97JqxwjTuf8&t=297s>
- Reconstruction After the Civil War Part III & IV  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nsi9uJy5azE&t=252s>
- Mark Charles “We the People” The 3 most misunderstood words in U.S. history
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOktqY5wY4A&t=425s>
- RACE: The Power of An Illusion Episode 1, 2, 3
  - “The Difference Between Us” [The Difference Between Us Episode One](#)
  - <https://vimeo.com/265756174> (The Story We Tell Episode 2)
  - <https://vimeo.com/265756935> (The House We Live In Episode 3)
- Bryan Stevenson There’s a Direct Line from Lynching to George Floyd  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O0xYsIfC84I&t=863s>
- Link: [Africa's Great Civilizations](#) – Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
- Link: [Without Sanctuary](#) (If you share this video you must get permission from the author and creator of the book and video)
- Link: [Being nice is not going to end racism](#) – Robin DiAngelo  
White Savior: Racism in the American Church (Amazon Prime Subscribers and for purchase on DVD)

#### **BECOME A TRAINED SACRED CONVERSATIONS TO END RACISM (SC2ER) FACILITATOR A RESTORATIVE RACIAL JUSTICE JOURNEY**

You are invited to begin a restorative racial justice journey with *Sacred Conversations to End Racism* (SC2ER). SC2ER facilitator training begins Tuesday, January 26, 2021. Applicants will be notified by email regarding their eligibility. Accepted applicants will receive an email confirmation from the UCC Minister for Racial Justice, Rev. Dr. Velda Love. Applications are available [here](#) for the 2021 SC2ER Facilitator Training.

**The SC2ER** Restorative Racial Justice Study and Facilitator Guides require facilitator training. The study and facilitator guide frameworks are culture-centered learning approaches. The study and facilitator guides have been developed to assist trained facilitators lead participants through each learning module of SC2ER. For more information contact Rev. Dr. Velda Love at [Lovev@ucc.org](mailto:Lovev@ucc.org) (216) 736-3719

*“Racism is a philosophy based on contempt for life. It is the arrogant assertion that one race is the center of value and object of devotion, before which other races must kneel in submission.” (MLK, Jr.) God is the Creator of humanity and does not place one group of people above another.*

