

Anti-Racism Work and Learning

Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

Please Note

- These suggestions have been culled from the ideas generated last week.
They are not comprehensive, but a place to start.
- They can be done individually, by a church group, or by a group that connects from different churches at the diocesan level. What do you feel called to start?
- They are roughly organized: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced.
- As a guideline, engage in at least 3 of the Learnings/Actions at the same level, over the course of 3-6 months, before “graduating” to the next level. (Don’t jump to “Intermediate” after reading only one book!)
- We will not all agree on all of these items. That’s okay. Choose what works for you!

Beginning Education/Actions

To Learn/Discuss

- Video/Book: “Many Rivers to Cross” - Henry Louis Gates series on PBS
- Book: A Different Mirror by Ronald Takaki
- Essay/Podcast Series: “The 1619 Project” (especially the first essay by Nicole Hannah Jones)
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html>
- View and discuss Oprah’s 2-part panel discussion series Where Do We Go From Here on the OWN Network or OWN TV
- Book: So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo
- Book: Waking Up White by Debby Irving
- Essay: “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack” by Peggy McIntosh
<https://nationalseedproject.org/Key-SEED-Texts/white-privilege-unpacking-the-invisible-knapsack>

To Do

- **Support Black businesses.** Find them on WeBuyBlack, The Black Wallet, and Official Black Wall Street.
- **Volunteer in your local school** and observe how students of color are treated. Help in the Principal’s office and observe. Who gets designated with disabilities? How much time NOT in the classroom do minority kids spend? Investigate Code of Conduct disciplinary actions.
- **Talk to your kids about race.** Use Teaching Tolerance (www.tolerance.org) or www.embracerace.com which has many resources for parents, book lists, etc.

Intermediate Education/Actions

To Learn/Discuss

- Website (or in-person exhibit at the Detroit Historical Society) <https://detroit1967.org> -- Discuss the history and reasons behind the riot/uprising.
- Go to the *Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History*, especially the exhibit “And Still We Rise”
- Book: *Stamped* by Ibram X. Kendi & Jason Reynolds (the young people version--or take on the more complete history, *Stamped from the Beginning* by Kendi)
- *The New Jim Crow* by Michele Alexander (powerful reveal of racism in criminal justice)

To Do

- **Become a member of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.** Visit regularly!
- **Hold mixed-race Compassionate Listening Circles** where people can ask awkward questions.
- **Research/advocate for more diversity in school curricula.** If need be, attend school board meetings for this. Follow up.
- **Pick an action to do each week** from this (or some other) list:
<https://medium.com/equality-includes-you/what-white-people-can-do-for-racial-justice-f2d18b0e0234>

Advanced Education/Actions

To Learn/Discuss

- The Congregational Church next door to the Cathedral offers an underground Railroad experience in their building.
- Book: *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo
- Book: *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit*, by Thomas Sugrue
- Video: “Whose Streets” - Ferguson, MO aftermath of michael brown’s death from perspective of Ferguson’s residents
- Podcast Series: *Seeing White* (14 parts) <https://www.sceneonradio.org/seeing-white/>
- Essay: “The Case for Reparations” by Ta-Nehisi Coates, <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

To Do

- **Get involved in ALPACT** working on police/community relations: <https://www.miroundtable.org/alpact>
- **Join or launch a chapter of Showing Up for Racial Justice** (SURJ): <https://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/surj-values.html>
- **Get involved in the Marshall Project** advocating for criminal justice reform: www.themarshallproject.org and/or give to bond/bail funds to help folks not lose their lives and livelihoods just because they can’t make bail.
- **Join the 8 Can’t Wait campaign** to reduce violence in your city: <https://8cantwait.org>