

Anti-racism and Activism Resources

Books:

William Barber, *Forward Together*

Will Campbell, *Brother to a Dragon Fly*

Elaine Robinson, *Race and Theology*

Chris Crass, *Towards the "Other America;" Antiracist Resources for White People*

Leah Gunning Francis, *Ferguson and Faith: Sparking Leadership and Awakening Community* (Chalice, 2015)

Martin Luther King, Jr. *Trumpet of Conscience* (Beacon, reprint 2010)

Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the World and Me* (Spiegel & Grau, 2015)

Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration In An Age of Colorblindness* (New Press, 2010)

Jamala Rogers, *Ferguson is America: Roots of Rebellion* (self-published)

Pamela R. Lightsey, *Our Lives Matter: A Womanist Queer Theology* (Pickwick, 2015)

Elaine Scarry, *Thinking in an Emergency* (Norton, 2012 reprint edition)

**ANTI-BIAS EDUCATION RESOURCES
FOR ADULTS WORKING WITH CHILDREN**

Delpit, Lisa. Other People's Children: Cultural Conflict in the Classroom. NY: New Press, 1995.

Derman-Sparks, Louise & A.B.C. Task Force. Anti-Bias Curriculum: Tools for Empowering Children. Washington, DC: National Association for the Education of Young Children, 1989.

Derman-Sparks, Louise & Ramsey, Patricia G. What If All the Kids Are White? Anti-Bias/Multicultural Teaching Strategies. New York: Teachers College Press,

Lareau, Annette. Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life. Berkley: University of California Press, 2003.

Menkart, D., Murray, A. & View, J. Putting the MOVEMENT Back into Civil Rights Teaching: A Resource Guide for K-12 Classrooms. Washington, DC: Teaching for Change, 2004.

Wolpert, Ellen. Start Seeing Diversity: The Basic Guide to an Anti-Bias Classroom. St. Paul, MN: Redleaf Press, 1999.

Websites:

Department of Justice Report on Ferguson

Available online for free at http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/opa/press-releases/attachments/2015/03/04/ferguson_police_department_report.pdf

reconciliationministry.org/resources/

PRO-RECONCILIATION/ANTI-RACISM BIBLIOGRAPHY

**Recommended for Group Studies*

Racism and Anti-Racism: Analysis

Barndt, Joseph. Dismantling Racism: The Continuing Challenge to White America. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1991. This book helps us understand how our racism functions in, and is perpetrated in, our homes, schools, churches, and institutions. It is particularly helpful for those involved in local churches and ecumenical groups who are committed to dismantling racism.

Derman-Sparks, Louise and Carol Brunson Phillips. Teaching/Learning Anti-Racism. New York: Teachers College Press, 1997. This book describes the process that evolves as teachers and students grapple with the complexities and challenges of learning about racism and becoming anti-racist.

Loewen, James. Lies My Teacher Told: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong. New York: Touchstone, 1996. From the truth about Columbus's historic voyages to an honest evaluation of our national leaders, Loewen revives our history, restoring to it the vitality and relevance it truly possesses.

*Parker, Robin and Pamela Smith Chambers. The Anti-Racist Cookbook: A Recipe Guide for Conversations About Race That Goes Beyond Covered Dishes and "Kum-Bah-Ya". Roselle, N.J.: Crandall, Dostie, & Douglass Books, Inc., 2005. In the style of all cookbooks, this book offers a list of ingredients and preparations that will enable you to feed yourself well, not with food, but with knowledge, ideas, and discussion strategies that can improve the places where you live, work, and study.

Smedley, Audrey. Race in North America: Origin and Evolution of a Worldview. Boulder: Westview Press, 1999. This book is a synthesis of the anthropological, sociological, and historical scholarship of the idea of race; it is a sustained and comprehensive treatment of the idea of race and the cultural context out of which it emerged and that has sustained it.

Tatum, Beverly. Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations about Race. New York: Basic Books, 1997. Tatum explains the development of racial identity and provides innovative ways to think and talk about race.

Zinn, Howard. A People's History of the United States: 1492-Present, New York: Harper Collins, 2001. This book tells America's story from the point of view of—and in the words of—America's women, factory workers, African Americans, Native Americans, working poor, and immigrant laborers.

White Privilege

Hobgood, Mary Elizabeth. Dismantling Privilege, Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2000. Class and race are often assumed to be natural, biologically determined categories when in fact they are social constructs. Together with gender, these distinctions are perpetuated and exploited by the most powerful social group — white male elites — to maintain their privilege. Hobgood identifies an ethical agenda for elites and seeks to persuade them that an agenda of justice and an ethics of accountability will be of primary benefit to them. The solution, Hobgood asserts, is a politics of solidarity grounded in the realization that no one is free until all are free.

*Kivel, Paul. Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice, Gabriola Island, B.C.: New Society Publishers, 2002. Kivel talks about racism without rhetoric, blame, or guilt. He helps us understand the dynamics of racism in our society, institutions, and daily lives, and he shares stories, suggestions, advice, exercises, and approaches for working together to fight racism.

Rothenberg, Paula S. White Privilege: Essential Readings on the Other Side of Racism, New York: Worth Publishers, 2004. This book seeks first to make whiteness visible. Subsequent essays discuss the nature and history of white power. The concluding section challenges readers to explore ideas for using the power and the concept of white privilege to help combat racism in their own lives.

Biblical and Theological Perspective

*Branding, Ronice. Fulfilling the Dream: Confronting the Challenge of Racism. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1995. This book invites Christians to join in creatively confronting the challenge of racism—particularly in responding to well-conceived “searchings of heart, mind, faith, and society” that close each of the eight chapters.

*Dixon, Michael E. Show No Partiality. St. Louis: Christian Board of Publication, 1998. A beginning look at anti-racism. Six sessions.

Griffin, Paul R. Seeds of Racism in the Soul of America. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1999. This book searches out and examines critically the specific theological ideas there were used to justify slavery in the past and are still used to support racism. It proceeds to examine critically how liberal whites are as guilty of perpetuating these theological ideas as are religious conservatives.

*Hobgood, William Chris. Born Apart, Becoming One: Disciples Defeating Racism. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2009. The purpose of this book is to enable a deep exploration of the relationship of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to the pro-reconciliation/anti-racism initiative of our denomination, with the goal of engaging individuals and congregations in this initiative to dismantle institutional racism.

Jha, Sandhya. Room at the Table: Struggle for Unity and Equality in Disciples History. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2009. This book is an offering to the whole church that recounts briefly the journey of each racial ethnic group in trying to reach full recognition, participation and inclusiveness in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Law, Eric H. F. Inclusion: Making Room for Grace. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2000. This book provides resources for building diversity and extending the boundaries of grace for congregations.

Law, Eric H. F. The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1993. This groundbreaking work explores how certain cultures consciously and unconsciously dominate in multicultural situations and what can be done about it.

Matsuoka, Fujitama. The Color of Faith: Building Community in a Multiracial Society. Cleveland: The United Church Press, 1998. This book provides a theological perspective on racial and ethnic plurality by exploring such issues as alienation across shifting race lines; race and justice; the inner workings of race, class, and culture; and signs of hope amid an enduring culture of opposition.

*Ministry of Reconciliation. From Beloved Community to Communities of Hope: A Small-Group Study Guide for Engaging Reconciliation. Indianapolis: Office of General Minister and President, 2009. This book is a collection of sermons with discussion questions.

CHILDREN'S BIBLIOGRAPY

Provided by CCIW's
Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Team
2012

Avery, Charles E. Everybody Has Feelings. Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House, 1998.

Cheltenham Elementary School Kindergarten. We Are All Alike-We Are All Different. NY: Scholastic, 1991.

Dooley, Norah. Everybody Cooks Rice. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 1991.

Hamanka, Sheila. All the Colors of the Earth. NY: Morrow Jr. Books, 1994.

Katz, Karen. The Colors of Us. NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1999.

Marzollo, Jean. Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King. NY: Scholastic Inc., 1993.

Morris, Ann. Bread. NY: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, 1989.

Morris, Ann. Loving. NY: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, 1990.

Parkes, Brenda. Families. NY: Newbridge Educational Publishing, 1999

Parr, Todd. It's OK to Be Different. NY: Hachette Book Group, 2001.

Sebestyen, Ouida. Words by Heart, New York: Yearling Books, 1997.

Stroud, Bettye. The Patchwork Path: A Quilt Map to Freedom, Cambridge: Candlewick Press, 2005.

Woodson, Jacqueline. Show Way, New York: Putnam, 2005.

Suggestion:

Purchasing some of these books for your church library can help the children of your church in developing awareness of difference in a way that fosters interest in and empathy with difference, rather than a fear or judgment of it.

PRO-RECONCILIATION/ANTI-RACISM MOVIES/FILMS

A Day Without a Mexican: Distributed by Major Video Stores

Mary Jo Quintana wakes up one morning to discover that her husband Roberto has vanished along with their young son. She soon learns that they are among the 14 million Latinos from across the state who have disappeared seemingly overnight. 97 min.

American History X: Distributed by Major Video Stores

Derek Vinyard (Edward Norton) the charismatic leader of a group of young white supremacists, lands in prison for a brutal, hate-driven murder. Upon his release, ashamed of his past and pledging to reform, Derek realizes he must save his younger brother, Danny (Edward Furlong) from a similar fate. A groundbreaking controversial drama about the tragic consequences of racism in a family. 119 min.

Beyond the News: Racism: Distributed by Mennonite Media Productions, 1-800-999-3534

This film explores prejudice and white privilege and how they affect jobs, expectations in education, the judicial system, and the church. 25 min.

Blue Eyed: Distributed by California Newsreel, 415-621-6196

Jane Elliott's widely-known "blue eyed/brown eyed" exercise is the oldest and most celebrated anti-racism awareness program in the country. It began as a simple class-room simulation for Elliott's all-white Iowa 3rd grade class the day after Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination in 1968. This film offers every American a chance to sit-in on a full-length workshop with America's most dynamic diversity trainer, Jane Elliott. 93 min.

Crash: Distributed by Major Video Stores

This compelling urban thriller tracks the volatile intersection of a multiethnic cast of characters struggling to overcome their fears as they careen in and out of one another's lives. In the gray area between black and white, victim and aggressor, during the next 36 hours, they will all collide. 122 min.

Do the Right Thing: Distributed by Major Video Stores

On a sweltering hot day in a Brooklyn neighborhood, everyone has their own issues to deal with and tensions between Blacks and Italians rise. Issues of pride and prejudice, justice and inequity come to the surface as hate and bigotry smoulder--finally building into a crescendo as it explodes into violence. 120 min.

Dying to Live: A Migrant's Journey: Distributed by The Center for Latino Spirituality and Culture at the University of Notre Dame

This is a profound look at the human face of the migrant. It explores who these people are, why they leave their homes and what they face in their journey. This film explores the places of conflict, pain and hope along the US-Mexico border. It is a reflection on the human struggle for a more dignified life and the search to find God in the midst of it all. 33 min.

Eyes on the Prize: Distributed by PBS Video and Blackside, Inc.

In the 1950s and 1960s, America fought a second revolution to secure “inalienable rights” and equal treatment under the law—a second revolution to make “liberty and justice for all” a reality for black Americans as well as white. Through contemporary interviews and historical footage, this film traces the civil rights movement from early acts of individual courage through the flowering of a mass movement and its eventual split into factions.

Farewell to Manzanar: Distributed by Major Video Stores

This film recounts a dark chapter in American history from the point of view of those most closely affected by it. This made-for-TV movie concentrates on the Wakatsukis, a Japanese-American family living in Santa Monica, California in the early 1940s. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the family’s father is accused of selling fuel to Japanese submarines and is thrown in jail. His wife and children are shipped off to the internment camp of Manzanar in California, along with thousands of other American citizens of Japanese descent.

Free Indeed: Distributed by Mennonite Central Committee, Akron, PA, Phone: 1-888-563-4676

This video drama about racism challenges white viewers to think about the privileges that come with being white in North America. In the drama four white, middle-class young adults play a card game as a pre-requisite for doing a service project for a black Baptist church. The game leads to a discussion about the privileges white people have. 23 min.

Freedom Riders: Distributed by PBS

In 1961, segregation seemed to have an overwhelming grip on American society. Many states violently enforced the policy, while the federal government, under the Kennedy administration, remained indifferent, preoccupied with matters abroad. That is, until an integrated band of college students decided, en masse, to risk everything and buy a ticket on a Greyhound bus bound for the Deep South. They called themselves Freedom Riders, and they managed to bring the president and the entire American public face to face with the challenge of correcting civil-rights inequities that plagued the nation. 120 min.

The Human Stain: Distributed by Major Video Stores

Coleman Silk (Anthony Hopkins) has a secret. A terrible fifty-year-old secret that the esteemed college professor has kept hidden from everyone and it’s about to ruin his entire life. 106 min

The Long Walk Home: Distributed by Major Video Stores

When Odessa (Whoopi Goldberg) honors the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott by walking the nine miles to and from work, Miriam (Sissy Spacek) offers her a ride. Defying both Miriam’s racist husband and the powerful town council, Miriam and Odessa put their lives in

danger for civil rights. Their shared experiences draw them closer as a deep respect and lasting friendship forms. Together, in a difficult world of black versus white, they manage to discover a common ground. 95 min.

My Family: Distributed by Major Video Stores

The film is an honorable, beautiful, and tragic masterpiece that captures the essence of what it is to be Latino in Southern California. It is an excellent portrait of how important culture and family are among Latino households. This is a must see film for anyone interested in Latino Studies and should be watched by all who want to understand the history, legacy, and contributions of America's fastest growing minority group.

Myth of Race: Distributed by Mennonite Central Committee, Akron, PA, Phone: 1-888-563-4676

A brief look at what race is, where it came from, and how it shapes our lives. Originally developed as a computer-based slide presentation for youth, the video incorporates still and animated images with narration and music to present the material in a nonthreatening way.

19 min.

Rabbit Proof Fence: Distributed by Major Video Stores

Between 1905 and 1971, the Australian government had a horrible policy. They forcibly removed all half-caste Aboriginal children to special training schools. The grown daughter of one of these children wrote a book about her mother's experiences. This film is an adaptation of that book. 94 min.

Remember the Titans: Distributed by Major Video Stores

This film is a rousing celebration of how a town torn apart by resentment, friction and mistrust comes together in triumphant harmony. The year is 1971. After leading his team to fifteen winning seasons, football coach Bill Yoast (Will Patton) is demoted and replaced by Herman Boone (Denzel Washington), tough, opinionated and as different from the beloved Yoast as he could be. How these two men overcome their differences, and turn a group of hostile young men into champions, plays out in a remarkable and triumphant story full of soul and spirit. 114 min.

Smoke Signals: Distributed by Major Video Stores

This dramatic feature was written, directed, and co-produced by Native Americans. In 1976, an infant survives a fire that kills his parents. In a flash forward to the present day, the infant has grown up to become the skinny, nerdy adult Thomas. At Idaho's desolate Coeur d'Alene Indian reservation, the overeager youth is mostly ignored by others, including stoic athletic Victor Joseph, even though it was Victor's father, alcoholic Arnold Joseph, who saved the infant Thomas' life in the fire. A drunken Arnold later abandoned his family, and Victor hasn't seen his father in a decade. When Victor learns of Arnold's death in Phoenix, Thomas offers to pay for the trip to Phoenix if he can accompany Victor.

True Colors: Distributed by Corvison, Buffalo Grove, IL, Phone: 1-800-537-3130

PrimeTime Live Anchor Diane Sawyer enlisted the services of two professional discrimination testers trained in presenting themselves exactly the same way. Day in and day out, the white tester gets preferential treatment. Belief that a person's skin color justifies preferential or discriminatory treatment has no place in democratic America. Exposing racism's true colors is the beginning of true change. 19 min.

Under Suspicion: Distributed by Corvision, Buffalo Grove, IL, Phone: 1-800-537-3130

Imagine you are in a well-known department store to buy a pair of pants when suddenly you find yourself surrounded by a group of security guards who threaten to "cuff" you if you and your six-year-old son do not "pull your pants down" to prove you are not shop-lifting? Sound implausible? Un-American? Or just plain illegal? 15 min.

ABOUT FILMS AND DOCUMENTARIES

Professor Lewis Rambo suggests that “films are useful tools to lead us in an exploration of what we might fear, what we might be afraid to talk about.” He also says that “film has a very profound effect on our thinking about other people and the categories we use to define them.” Movies when discussed and debriefed intentionally can be a good avenue for bringing the subject of racism into conversation.

Questions to consider while watching films:¹

Phenomenology of Film

- Describe your experience of the film.
- What, if anything, moved you deeply in the film?
- What thoughts or ideas did the film generate?
- What ethical or moral issues did the film foster?
- What religious and/or spiritual issues did the film raise?

Cultural Assessment

- How are racial and ethnic perspectives constructed in the film?
- How are various racial ethnic groups represented in this film?
- What value systems are assumed and/or challenged by the film?
- Does this film provide you with a window into the world of another culture?
- What internal issues or problems is this film addressing?
- What are/was the political, economic, and cultural implications of this film—in its place of origin and/or in this context?
- Is this film attempting to legitimize the status quo or is it a form of resistance or subversion of the status quo?

Theological Assessment

- What is the role of the divine or the sacred in this film?
- Is there specific religious/theological content in the film?
- Is there implicit religious/theological content in the film?
- Is a particular religious orientation portrayed or advocated?
- How is fundamental human nature portrayed in this film?

¹ Questions developed by Dr. Lewis Rambo from the San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, CA