
Injustice Anywhere Screening Packet



#InjusticeAnywhereTheFilm
How will YOU contribute?



About *Injustice Anywhere*:

Following the fatal shooting of young adult Michael Brown on August 9, 2014, by Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson, several Disciples clergy and laypersons joined many others in community responses for justice in Ferguson and beyond. The documentary film *Injustice Anywhere* arose in the midst of conversations and work of several expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to share a story of collective experiences from individuals impacted by these events.

From filmmaker Aziza Binti:

“This film seeks to provide solutions, ideas, and compassion for Disciples to see just how valuable their efforts can be, even on a small scale. Social justice is not just “their” problem; it’s everyone’s concern. We reference the quote from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. — ‘Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere’ — to open the film and begin speaking with members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) about their understanding that this is indeed everyone’s issue — especially those who are truly Disciples of Christ.”

SECTION ONE: The Basics

- This film belongs to the **Disciple pastors, activists, and artists** who sought a way to tell the story of how Disciples in the St. Louis area responded to the fatal shooting of Michael Brown in 2014 by Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson. Though many organizations and individuals had a hand in helping this film come to life, it ultimately belongs to those who tell their stories through it.
- This film, and the accompanying shorter vignettes, are intended to **raise awareness, serve as teaching tools, and provide a call to action to get involved in seeking racial justice** where you live and serve. It contains a call to our whole society—neighbors, colleagues, friends—but in particular its call to awareness, introspection, and action is to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The hope of those who have put this film together is that it sparks conversation and involvement based on our common faith as Disciples. That said, it is our prayer that all who see the film will hear for themselves a call to join the struggle for justice and true community.

SECTION TWO: Copyright and Screening Guidelines

We're honored that you are considering hosting a screening of this film. Below are some guidelines for screening this film that protect you as the host, honor the intent of the film, and safeguard its content.

- You can stream the film with an internet connection, using this link: www.nbacares.org/InjusticeAnywhere. If you will not have an internet connection at your screening, please contact NBA to request a DVD of the film at: kwhitehouse@nbacares.org.
- The screening must be **free of charge to all viewers**. If you would like to collect donations in any way associated with screening this film, please first contact NBA—the holder of the rights to this film on behalf of the involved St. Louis Disciples. Please complete the form found at www.nbacares.org/InjusticeAnywhere with any questions or special requests.
- This film (or each associated vignette) must be shown in its entirety at any screening. The film credits contain important information and attribution that keep important commitments to those who contributed to the film. These screens should not be skipped or cut off, under any circumstances.
- A **sample flyer** is included in this packet to help bring continuity to the way this film and its associated screenings are publicized. The language and images in this flyer have been carefully chosen, and use of this flyer for your screenings (with adaptations needed for your setting) is strongly encouraged. An editable version can be downloaded from the website.
- We encourage you to include time for discussion and deeper exploration as part of your screening event. A *study guide*, with sample questions for your small group or audience informed primarily by the voices heard in the film, is included in this packet.
- When considering guest speakers or planning for a panel, please know that a key principle of this film is that it **lifts and amplifies voices that have not been heard or are typically marginalized**. *By requesting to screen the film, you also agree to host an event that reflects this same principle*. When seeking panelists or speakers, look to the community to learn or locate the marginalized voices and privilege those actively working for racial justice at a grassroots level. **Aim to hear from community members, concerned people of faith, local activists and organizers**. Take your lead from them as you choose your event's speakers. Be slow to include those whose positions already offer socially legitimized power, like law enforcement officers or politicians; their roles in the community typically already offer them multiple platforms for sharing their viewpoint. In addition, please know that those involved in the film are also available to be speakers and panelists at your screenings. See Section Three for names and contact information.

- **Any public screening of this film must include a call to action.** Another key principle of this film is that it inspires action. To that end, hosts of local screenings should work to collect names of organizations and efforts working for racial justice that attendees of the screening event can use as resources to get involved in the work happening where they live. See Section Three for names of national organizations with local chapters that can help you get started. We also invite you to collect names and contact information for screening attendees for follow-up related to future events and resources; see the sample contact template included in this packet.

SECTION THREE: People to Know and Connections for Next Steps



Film Maker: Aziza Binti

Aziza Binti is a St. Louis born and bred photographer, filmmaker, educator, and speaker. Aziza's passion for documentary film, particularly surrounding the need for narrative shifts in black and brown communities, began shortly before the history-making Ferguson Movement in 2014. Aziza sought out ways to help young women and girls find their voice through documentary film and photography in an effort to remind them and the world that their voices, stories, and experiences matter. Aziza later started the

documentary workshops, Little Docs United, offered to St. Louis area middle and high schools to help students honor their voices while learning to respect and honor others.

Through her work with organizations such as Sistakeeper STL, Washington University's Center for Humanities, and the National Benevolent Association, Aziza has been able to use her gift of storytelling to empower and inspire change and honest conversation, and to offer an honest look into the lives and challenges of those most often ignored in our society. Her most recent project, as commissioned by the National Benevolent Association and St. Louis-area Disciples of Christ in 2015-16, manages to bring all those important elements to the screen with the help of local area Disciples, activists, and organizers. Aziza is a member of Liberation Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in St. Louis, MO. Learn more about her work at: <http://www.azizabintiphotography.com>

Disciples Pastors in the Film

- **Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker**, Liberation Christian Church (DOC): revdwise@yahoo.com
- **Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Foster**, Compton Heights Christian Church (DOC): comptonheightscc@gmail.com

- **Rev. Dr. Jeff Moore**, Webster Groves Christian Church (DOC): jeffmoore@wgcc.org
- **Rev. Derrick L. Perkins, Sr.**, Centennial Christian Church (DOC): cccstl@sbcglobal.net

Activist Groups: How to Find Them and Connect

- **Reconciliation Ministry** is the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)'s shared ministry and currently has numerous expressions in the life of the church. Each Region sponsors camps and conferences for adults and youth to learn from each other's cultural and historical experiences. At the Regional level, Disciples also have Transformation Teams that focus on unraveling the effects of racism and separation in their programs and committees. Disciples may consider joining a team or inviting team members to your church. You can also participate in a training event sponsored by Reconciliation Ministry or your Region. For more information, visit: <http://reconciliationministry.org>
- **National Benevolent Association** of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) hosts multiple Affinity Groups—networking and gathering groups focused on particular issue areas—and those issues are examined in light of their intersections with racism and racial justice. Here are two of them:
 - NBA Prison and Jail Ministries: <https://www.nbacaes.org/prison-and-jail>
 - NBA Mental Health Initiative: <https://www.nbacaes.org/mental-health>
 - NBA Organizer-Activist Peer Group: see Dietra Baker or Ayanna Watkins for more information (awatkins@nbacaes.org)
- Many **faith-based national community organizing/activist groups** may have chapters or affiliates in your state or city. Here are some examples of where you might start looking for activist groups working on racial justice:
 - Gamaliel: <http://www.gamaliel.org>
 - PICO: <http://www.piconetwork.org>
 - Interfaith Workers for Justice: <http://www.iwj.org>
 - IAF: <http://www.industrialareasfoundation.org>
 - Black Lives Matter: <http://blacklivesmatter.com>
 - Jobs with Justice <http://www.jwj.org>
 - NAACP: <http://www.naacp.org>
 - YWCA: <http://www.ywca.org>
 - The Michael Brown Foundation: <http://michaelodbrown.org>

Injustice Anywhere

Study Guide

Contributors

Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker, Liberation Christian Church (DOC)
Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Foster, Compton Heights Christian Church (DOC)
Rev. Dr. Jeff Moore, Webster Groves Christian Church (DOC)
Rev. Derrick L. Perkins, Sr., Centennial Christian Church (DOC)
Rev. Margie Pride, Memorial Boulevard Christian Church (DOC)

This Study Guide is designed to be used along with the film as a tool for discussion, reflection, and action. It is written primarily with members and ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in mind, but we hope that the guide will prove useful far beyond this faith community. Our prayer is that it helps us all as we seek racial and social justice for all God's people.

SECTION ONE: The Ferguson Uprising

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter.” ~Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK)

1. What are incidents of social justice crises in your city?
2. What did you see community folks doing that inspired you?
3. When those incidents of social justice took place, how did it make you feel? What were your initial reactions to what you felt, saw, heard, or experienced?
4. From whom, what, and where did you get your information regarding those incidents of social justice, and how did that information impact you?
5. How might matters regarding incidents of social injustice become a matter of faith for you? What biblical texts address those realities for you?
6. How does this film affect your views on racism?
7. The movement in Ferguson is often painted with a broad brush. What stories in the film counteract what you have heard? How does the film help you disrupt other dominant media narratives around people of color?

SECTION TWO: The Church Wakes Up!

“The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.” ~MLK

1. Church leaders realized early they had no real relationships with the people of Ferguson. What kinds of relationships do you need to nurture in your own community?
2. What keeps us from nurturing and strengthening community relationships? What might we do to overcome these barriers?
3. What are some possibilities that congregations can explore to begin the process of establishing relationships with the neighbors from their surrounding community?
4. How might those newly formed relationships strengthen and/or impact the work of your church, and the overall health of your community?
5. How do you understand the relationship between the church and politics—the church and the public stance it makes on justice issues? Can the church be political?
6. How has or how can involvement in social justice movements change the church/faith community?
7. How can Christianity, in particular because of its oppressive history as it relates especially to African Americans, be used to truly liberate people?

SECTION THREE: JOIN THE MOVEMENT

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” ~MLK

1. What do you think keeps people from getting involved in issues of racial justice?
2. How might our understanding of racial and social justice connect to the ministry and model set forth by the prophets, Jesus Christ, and the Apostles as described throughout the sacred text?
3. What is your congregation or organization’s next step in the struggle for racial justice?
4. What kinds of racial justice activities can you and/or your church begin within the next 3 months?
5. How can we teach children about injustice and diversity?
6. What kind of partnerships would help your work on racial justice to be more effective and sustainable? What municipal, organizational, or denominational connections might need to be made?
7. What specific roles would local organizers and activists like churches and people of faith to play?
8. What are the long-term policy changes we should be pressing for now?
9. How might the broader work and emphases of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) inform and support your work?

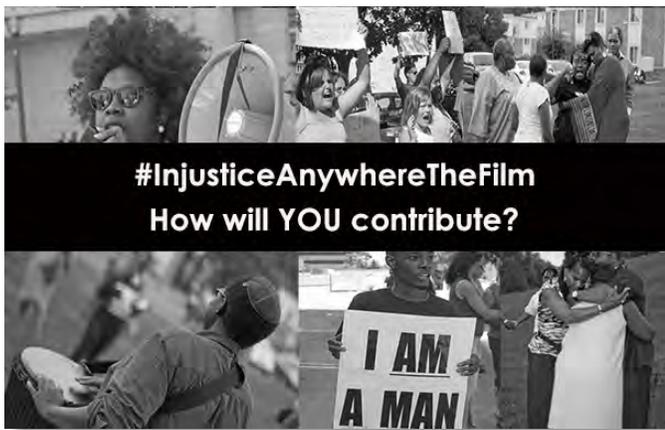
10. How can you ensure your congregation/region does not get stuck in conversations about race without ever moving to actions that impact racist structures?
11. How can we begin our work on structural racism within our congregations/regions? How can we impact structural racism at the general church level?



In cooperation with other Disciples, the National Benevolent Association (NBA) has supported efforts for justice and racial reconciliation in the St. Louis area by promoting and facilitating conversation, gathering, advocacy, and healing. The NBA commissioned this gathering of stories after the death of Michael Brown in August 2014 on behalf of local Disciples seeking to respond to the crisis. The viewpoints presented here reflect a story of collective experiences from individuals impacted by the events in Ferguson and do not necessarily represent the views of these supporting organizations.

Hosting a Screening of *Injustice Anywhere*: Hospitality Planning Tips

- **Inviting people to come:**
 - Have you sent out invitations?
 - Have you shared the information with media in your area? (Note: consider university newspapers and/or other community news/websites, etc.)
 - Do the churches in your area know about the screening?
 - Have you taken advantage of social media in your community?
- **For the screening itself:**
 - Do you have the projector you need?
 - Do you have internet sufficient to stream the film, or a DVD of the film?
 - Is the screen set up? (Do you need volunteers to assist?)
 - Can everyone in the room see the screen?
 - Is the space large enough that you will need to rope off a section to make the screening a community experience?
- **When guests arrive:**
 - Can they find their way to the door to enter? Do you need signs outside the building directing them where to enter?
 - Is there someone to greet them and welcome them to the space?
 - If you are expecting media/reporters, do you have someone to greet them who is prepared to speak to the press about the film?
 - Are the restrooms easy to find, or do you need additional signage?
 - Will you provide something to drink (water, punch, coffee/tea)?
 - Will you provide something to eat (cookies, veggies, cheese, etc.)?
(*Providing food that can be held on a napkin and eaten with fingers will be easier.*)
 - Is it clear where in the building the screening will be held, or do you need signage, or someone, to direct your guests?
 - If you have roped-off an area in the screening place, be aware that you need to open that space when the available seating areas become 80% full.
- **When guests leave:**
 - If you had greeters when they arrived, it is appropriate for your greeters to return to their posts and thank your guests for coming to the screening.
 - Clean-up the space you have used for the screening.



Injustice Anywhere St. Louis Screening and Activists' Night

Friday, April 29, 2016

6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Union Avenue Christian Church
733 Union Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63108



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Join local Disciples on April 29 for the St. Louis film screening!

6:00 p.m. – Reception

6:30 p.m. – Film Screening

7:30 p.m. – Panel & Small-Group Discussion

8:20 p.m. – Call to Action & Sign-Ups

View the trailer, find additional resources, and RSVP at:
www.nbacares.org/InjusticeAnywhere



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