

BLACKHAWK PRESBYTERY ASSEMBLY MEETING

FEBRUARY 9, 2021 ZOOM CHAT RECAP

REV. DR. BARBARA WILSON'S PRESENTATION

"Envisioning a New Way of Life Together"

10:22:49 From John Walker to Everyone : Thank you, Dr. Wilson!

10:23:06 From Caleb Suydam to Everyone : Thank you!

10:23:22 From Craig Herr to Everyone : Much thanks Dr. Wilson!

10:23:50 From Barbara Wilson to Everyone : Thanks Everyone!

10:40:31 From Katherine Pearson to Everyone : That was illuminating! We needed more time...

10:57:11 From Craig Herr to Everyone : This has been good time but we need a lot more time to work these discussions.

10:57:50 From Barbara Wilson to Everyone : Blessings All. Thanks again.

10:58:42 From Gary Panetta to Everyone : Can anyone recommend one or two short books that would help people do a racial inventory? That would help them explore their own racial attitudes? Something short that could be used in a small ZOOM group?

10:59:32 From Craig Herr to Everyone : Liz Wilkerson's book Caste: the Origins of our Discontent and The Third Option by Miles McPherson

11:02:17 From Eric Heinekamp to Everyone : To Gary Panetta's question on recommended book on racism, please check out the Matthew 25 page on the Blackhawk Presbytery website. Go to home page, click Matthew 25, go down to Dismantling Structural Racism and you will see many resources.

11:03:07 From Skip Shaffer to Everyone : "Wolf Shall Dwell With the Lamb," Eric Law.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION GROUPS:

1. **What risks are we willing to take to build deeper relationships and understanding?**
2. **As a community of hope, how do we need to be made new to face and disrupt racism?**
3. **What dividing walls must we confront and tear down?**
4. **How does racism weaken our witness as disciples of Christ?**

Group Leaders

11:03:14 From ***Lisa Lopez-Meyer*** to Everyone : We discussed questions 1 and 3. On the risks we are willing to take we mentioned you have to be willing to risk being vulnerable, offering of yourself, exposing your own views and how they affect others, as well as sacrifice your own preferences for life of

the community so that others may have space and voice in the life of the community. You also need to be willing to work in discomfort and risk tension in relationships so you can get to healthier overall relationships. We must also be willing to make mistakes and risk misunderstanding so you can get to real and deep understanding. On 3, the dividing walls we need to confront and tear down we listed the following: unhealthy comfort (unwillingness to be in the uncomfortable space of growing and learning), tribalism (sense of needing to stick with one identity group against all others); the bubbles of small, tight-knit communities (perspectives need to be broadened); reticence to accept that racism is a problem, the tendency to leave the table if someone says

11:04:32 From Lisa Lopez-Meyer to Everyone : The tendency to break relationships. We also mentioned that the collapse of traditional sources of meaning is a problem we need to address, because white supremacy and conspiracy theories fills that void for many.

11:04:23 From Mary Ellen Shine to Everyone : Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man, by Emmanuel Acho. Excellent

11:00:23 From **Diane Jochum** to Everyone : Question 4: We are all children of God. Because of implicit racism we don't see others not like us. Many of churches have been predominantly white as are our communities. Some of our congregants don't see the relevance of dealing with racism.

11:06:30 From Diane Jochum to Everyone : Question 1: Risks: As a pastor how far can I push my congregants so they can hear/receive information? Discussed contexts, building trust, taking baby steps or softer approaches to lead into discussions. It's scary to have to self-examine. Pastors feeling the fine line of wanting to work on these issues and have a reputation of being aware/"woke" but some feeling they may be measured by others who say they aren't pushing hard enough.

11:07:05 From **Susan Krause** to Everyone : Discussion Group #3
Sue Krause moderator.

Discussed #2,#3, and #1 in that order.

Comments – #2

We need to see our part in how structural racism developed.

We must see as Jesus saw and Love as Jesus loved, increasing our intimacy with God, grace, love and agape.

Relocation – need to be near people to work with them

Reconciliation – with our neighbor

Redistribution – of time, talents and treasures to share with others

#3 Walls to tear down?

Talk openly, respectfully and patiently

Persevere

Organizational change needed at all levels of church

#1 Risks

People might be uncomfortable

People might leave the church

Worship will have to change to be more challenging and different
We must have a change of heart – the tribe we ALL belong to is that we are ALL children of God.

11:11:02 From **Stephen Bowie** to Everyone : As a community of hope how do we need to change?
Fruitful conversation about what it means to be an antiracist i.e. to be actively working to confront
comments, politics, procedures, that work in support of racist structures.

The jeep commercial from the SB

One church is delving deeply into the book of Philippians and ideas about the need for humility and self-
emptying to establish a foundation for dealing With racism.
It's no longer helpful to say/thing "I'm not a racist" – must be an antiracist
In the light of Matt 25 – examine orthopraxy not simply orthodoxy

The Cross and the Lynching Tree

We need to be actively and intentionally striving to identity racist structures.

"There is racism everywhere around the world."

Yes, but we must not use that as an excuse or escape to deflect us from dealing With our own stuff.
Our racism is linked to historic and present power structures

Willingness to look at prejudice that also goes beyond considerations of color:

Gender

Sexual identity

From **Laurie Walker**:

We are having conversations about definitions and what these things mean and are recognizing times in
our lives when racism was evident.

Canoeing the Mountains just read. Discussing how we can be a more inclusive church.

Trying to find a way to talk to a "very white" audience. Used to the topic of Christian Nationalism as a
way to approach the topic. What it means to see a confederate flag to be carried through the capitol.

Risk for pastors is the deep political divides in their congregation. The issue of racism puts them in a
liberal camp when it is simply a kingdom value.

Important for our sessions to support the pastor in their attempts.

Listening to those impacted by racism helps us to open our eyes. We think we are open and have
LGBTQ members.

Good White Racist was read and found very powerful.

Caste is being read and helps us understand how we got where we are.

Anxious to Talk About It was an easy read and good for discussion.

Stamped From the Beginning gives great historical background.

Joined the Fox Valley Initiative to join other voices. Addressing affordable housing and reform in our justice system (focusing on rehabilitation). Addressing private prisons as a systemic racism issue.

Change is really hard when you don't recognize that there is a problem.

Young people recognize our hypocrisy in racism.

It was a good discussion, **Eric Heinekamp**:

Here are some notes from breakout room #6 at today's presbytery meeting.

Question #2

- We need to find new ways of thinking, both individually and as congregations
- How do we react when we see someone who is different? What happens in our spirit?
- We should think about how we are policing our whiteness? For example, the language we use, our sanctuary colors, songs, images reflect European white
- How can I love someone if I am alienating them by what I say or do?
- There is a difference between racism and prejudice. Prejudice + power = racism

Question #4

- We say it all the time but must take it to heart – Jesus engaged with everyone and we must too
- I'm participating in book groups, but I'm stuck – what do I do with what I read?
- Racism weakens our witness because we are not doing what Jesus said
- The key to our witness is love – love your neighbor

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

From Rebecca White Newgren to Everyone : Good Morning, Everyone! Rebecca here returning after a year and half long ordeal with a head injury. Glad to be here! :)

09:32:51 From Caleb Suydam to Everyone : Glad you're back with us!

09:34:18 From Katherine Pearson to Everyone : That's wonderful, Rebecca.

09:34:34 From David Terrinoni to Everyone : I'm very happy to see that you are back, Rebecca! My brother is still recovering from a TBI 1 1/2 years ago, too, so my prayers continue for your health and well-being :)

09:35:14 From Rebecca White Newgren to Everyone : Thank you, all!

09:35:25 From Doug Forsberg to Everyone : Glad you are back.

09:35:59 From Diane Jochum to Everyone : Prayers for continued recovery, Glad you're back Rebecca!

THANK YOU TO PASTOR DOTTIE MORIZZO FOR HER MESSAGE

09:57:50 From John Walker to Everyone : Thank you for your good and faithful word today, Dottie. Tender but powerfully convicting.

09:58:12 From Katherine Pearson to Everyone : Amen!

09:58:27 From Stephen Bowie to Everyone : Amen

09:59:30 From Faith Herout to Everyone : Thank you Dottie, wonderful words!

09:59:49 From Eric Heinekamp to Everyone : Thanks Dottie!

09:59:54 From Janet Chandler to Everyone : Thank you Dottie!

10:00:13 From Diane Jochum to Everyone : Wonderful message, Dottie! Thank you.

10:00:18 From Angela McClane to Everyone : Dottie - bless you for your challenge to us today - thank you!

10:00:19 From Gary Panetta to Everyone : Thanks so much, Dottie

10:01:37 From charles johnson to Everyone : thank you, Dottie...

10:01:47 From David Terrinoni to Everyone : Dottie, Amen and amen

PLEASE WATCH THE MATTHEW 25 SONG:

From Stephanie Anthony (she/her/hers) to Everyone : Song video <https://vimeo.com/466293793>
(Our un-played version was a local performer Mr. Dean Potter from Sandwich Federated – we will try again – SORRY!)

THANK YOU TO REV. DAN ROBERTSON FOR BRINGING US THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

10:06:22 From Stephen Bowie to Everyone : Thank you Daniel!

10:06:38 From John Walker to Everyone : Thank you, Daniel!

10:06:59 From Janet Chandler to Everyone : Thank you Daniel!

10:07:12 From Faith Herout to Everyone : Thank you Daniel.

10:08:07 From Daniel Robertson to Everyone : You are all very welcome - glad to serve this morning.

From KENNETH GREEN to Everyone : if you'd like to reach out to me, my work number is 215-587-7384 . To register for BoardLink--our secure online bill paying platform, go to pensions.org and look for the BoardLink registration connection on the landing page of pensions.org -1-800 PRESPLAN (800-773-7752)

From STEPHEN BOWIE to Everyone : Virtual Confirmation Retreat: March 13-14
Organized by Steve Bowie and Jon Hall - Watch for (announcements &) notes on Blackhawk (web)page