

Resources for Congregational Engagement:

White Privilege

Article: “Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack” by Peggy McIntosh

Summary: In her essay, “Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack,” American feminist and activist, Peggy McIntosh, explores the power of white privilege. To prove this power, McIntosh writes out a list of daily effects of white privilege in her life. Once these advantages are acknowledged, however, McIntosh questions what to do with this knowledge. How can people in positions of power dismantle the very systems that empower them? How can we become increasingly aware of our own privilege and the privilege (or lack thereof) of others? How do we transfer power to those who are different than us?

- Article: <http://www.racialequitytools.org/resourcefiles/mcintosh.pdf>
- Discussion Guide: from MNYS’s Anti-Racism Committee
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/mbnr3ijawmeac22/peggy%20mcintosh%20discussion.docx?dl=0>

Book: Waking Up White by Debby Irving

Summary: For twenty-five years, Debby Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people she dearly wanted to befriend. As an arts administrator, she didn’t understand why her diversity efforts lacked traction. Then, in 2009, one “aha!” moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan. In Waking Up White, Irving tells her story with such openness that readers will turn every page rooting for her-and ultimately for all of us.

- Book: Available online and in bookstores
- Discussion Guide: from the PC(USA)
https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/waking_up_white_study_english.pdf

Video: Deconstructing White Privilege with Dr. Robin DiAngelo (20 min)

Summary: This video focuses on the oppressive behavior that is born out of white privilege. Dr. Robin DiAngelo is transparent about white privilege couched in explicit and implicit biases. Dr. DiAngelo describes the most obvious and explicit aspects of racism and white privilege, while going beyond the surface of racism.

- Video: <http://www.gcorr.org/video/vital-conversations-racism-dr-robin-diangelo/>
- Discussion Guide: from the United Methodist Church:
<http://www.gcorr.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Dr.-Robin-DiAngelo.pdf>

Is your congregation White to the Every Congregation challenge and planning a conversation on white privilege? Let the Anti-Racism Committee know by filling out this simple form:

<https://forms.gle/Vc6aKHfSeZ3VUE6o8>