



## Zachariah Walker Racial Justice Initiative 2020-2021 Pennsylvania Southeast Conference

*Let justice roll down like a river  
and righteousness like a mighty stream.*

~ Amos 5:24

### 2020

- We established the Zachariah Walker Racial Justice Initiative Task Force, named for the Black man who was lynched in Coatesville, Pennsylvania – within the boundaries of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference – on August 13, 1911.
- We developed and circulated an [Anti-Racism Statement](#) for congregations and individuals to sign on to and to keep covenant with the tenants of the statement. So far twelve (12) congregations and over 160 individuals have signed the Statement. We encourage individuals and congregations to continue to sign this statement.
- With the work and guidance of Ms. Brea Rarick, a [Racial Justice Initiative webpage](#) was established on the PSEC website.
- Articles, educational materials, and information about Zachariah Walker and white supremacy are being posted in the PSEC Weekly e-News and on the Racial Justice Initiative webpage.
- The task force made connections with the ministerium in Coatesville and began planning a service of remembrance slated for August 13, 2020, but postponed it to 2021 due to COVID-19.
- Through the work and inspirations of Rev. Becky Hoover, an Advent Wreath Lighting Liturgy incorporating the theme of racial justice was made available to pastors and congregations and posted on the Racial Justice Initiative webpage.

### 2021

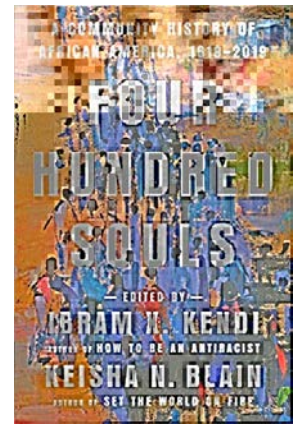
- We sent out a press release to over twenty news/media agencies regarding PSEC's Anti-Racism Statement two weeks before MLK Day.
- For MLK Day, we created a billboard and paid for it to be displayed for three weeks on the Route 422 corridor in Pottstown as a public witness against racism:



- We have printed racial justice yard signs and banners that churches and individuals may purchase and display. Suggested donations for yard signs is \$7; donation for church banners is \$70. If cost is a barrier, we will gladly provide assistance.



- In March 2021, our team member, Mr. Ray Edwards, issued an [open letter](#) to members of the conference regarding the shootings of, and escalating violence against, members of the Asian and Pacific Island communities.
- We are offering a book discussion on *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019*, edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain. Six week, book discussion groups will be held via Zoom June 1<sup>st</sup> through July 6<sup>th</sup> on Tuesdays at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. . The zoom link will be posted on the Racial Justice webpage and in the conference E-News each week.
- We are in the process of planning for an ecumenical Racial Justice Symposium in August of this year, which will include guest speakers, educational opportunities, and a service of remembrance and healing.



**Zachariah Walker Racial Justice Initiative Team Members:**

Ray Edwards, Cean James, Leslie Mamas, Stephen Ohnsman, Suzanne Schwartz-Green, and Susan Wargo.

**Co-Facilitators:** Anne Cormier and Ann-Therese Ortíz

If you are interested in joining our efforts, please contact:

Anne Cormier [annecormier@comcast.net](mailto:annecormier@comcast.net)  
 or Ann-Therese Ortíz [ortizat@hotmail.com](mailto:ortizat@hotmail.com)