



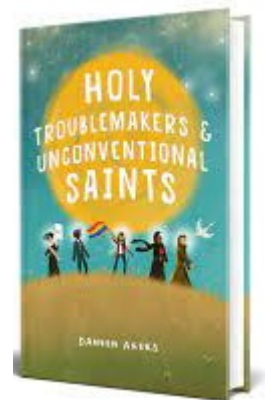
Zachariah Walker Racial Justice Initiative

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Summer & Fall 2022

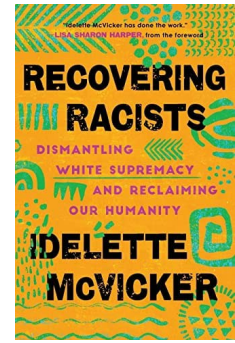
*Let justice roll down like a river
and righteousness like a mighty stream.
~ Amos 5:24*

2022

- **PSEC Spring Meeting Workshop – “The Spirituality of Justice: Becoming a Contemplative Activist”** was presented by Rev. Geneva Butz and Liz Brunton.
- **Solitary Confinement Cell** was present at the PSEC Spring Meeting, a ministry of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches.
- **Video Commemoration*** of the August 13, 1911 lynching of Zachariah Walker with a Service of Remembrance.
- Throughout the year, members of the Racial Justice Initiative (RJI) Team provide numerous **articles and information*** on matters of Racial Justice. Much of the focus for the fall has been devoted to voting and the threat of Christian Nationalism to our democracy and to Christianity.
- **Curriculum Tutorial*** for *Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints* by Daneen Akers was led by Lucinda Megill Legendre on September 21st on behalf of the Racial Justice Initiative.
- Racial Justice Initiative **helped sponsor two fall events:**
 - October 6th, Pennsylvania Council of Churches’ **“Christianity in America: Sacred or Supremacist?”*** with keynote speech by Dr. Robert P. Jones, author of *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity*, and a discussion panel featuring Robert Jones, Marilyn Mayo, Senior Research Fellow, Center on Extremism, Anti-Defamation League, Rev. Dr. Greg Edwards, Founder and Senior Pastor, Resurrected Life Community Church, United Church of Christ, Allentown, and Dr. Greg Carey, Professor of New Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary.
 - October 29th, “One Book, One Norristown” kickoff event with keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Drew Hart’s presentation of, **“*Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*”**. The team also assisted with facilitating breakout discussions.
- The RJI team provided a **Get out the VOTE article and numerous resources*** for conversation.



- Team members are facilitating the **Fall Book Study** on *Recovering Racists: Dismantling White Supremacy and Reclaiming Our Humanity*, by Idelette McVicker. Sessions are being held via Zoom on Tuesdays from November 1st through November 29th at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.



- **December 1st, 7p.m.** The Racial Justice Team will lead a conference wide discussion of the movie **TILL**, exploring the powerful truth-telling, justice-seeking spirit of Mamie Till, and what we can do as people of faith to thwart, change and dismantle the culture of white domination (white supremacy) and its' centuries long systemic oppression of, and violence against, Black people and Black communities. We encourage congregations to coordinate a "Movie Night" viewing of TILL at your local theater and then join us for a time of thoughtful, faithful discussion and introspection, and an opportunity to explore what social justice campaigns or truth-telling topics your faith community is willing to actively engage in. To register for the TILL discussion [click here](#). Registration is free.
- We are currently working with Zack Jackson to establish a **Racial Justice Initiative YouTube Channel** for easy access to videos, events and materials.

Looking Ahead to 2023

- Upcoming events:
 - Conference-wide Youth Offering – engagement with **the book, *Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints***, by Daneen Akers.
 - **Rev. Traci Blackmon** will be keynote speaker for "One Book, One Norristown" on April 16th, 2023. The event will be open to the PSEC.
 - Commemoration of the **60th Anniversary of the March on Washington** on August 28th, 2023. (Chartered bus to DC)
- Our visioning for 2023 recognizes the value of meeting people where they are. Book studies have been an important part of launching the work of the Racial Justice Initiative, but by themselves, they are not enough. The RJI is looking to create opportunities for broader education and change and hopes to begin movement toward engaging congregations in antiracism training.
- Rev. Anne Cormier will continue to serve on the Racial Justice Initiative Team, but will be stepping down as co-chair. Liz Brunton will co-chair along with Rev. Ann-Therese Ortiz beginning January, 2023. Rev. Cormier wishes to thank each member of the team for their support and faithful dedication to the ongoing evolution of becoming an antiracist and to the uphill work of dismantling systemic racism.

*Available on our webpage

Racial Justice Initiative Team Members:

Liz Brunton, Rev. Geneva Butz, Rev. Anne Cormier, Ernest Glover, Rev. Leslie Mamas, Rev. Dwayne Mosier,
Rev. Dr. Stephen Ohnsman, Rev. Ann-Therese Ortíz, Rev. Suzanne Schwartz-Green, Beth Walker

**If you are interested in joining our Racial Justice efforts,
please contact Co-Chairs:**

Anne Cormier annecormier@comcast.net or Ann-Therese Ortíz ortizat@hotmail.com

Prayer for Living in Tension

Adapted from Joseph M. Cherry, Unitarian Universalist Minister

If we have any hope of transforming the world and ourselves,
we must be bold enough to step into our discomfort, brave enough to be clumsy there,
and loving enough to forgive ourselves and others.
May we be granted the strength to be so bold, so brave, so loving. Amen.