

**Resource List for Ongoing Work Toward Racial, Ethnic, and Religious Reconciliation  
within Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA**

from the CDC Missional Church Committee's *Racial, Ethnic and Religious Reconciliation Task Group*

### Introduction

This list is by no means complete; it is a sampling of ways to take “next steps” in the areas of knowing, being and doing in the work of racial, ethnic and religious reconciliation. Online and library searches for anti-racism and/or anti-discrimination resources will also yield bountiful results for your consideration. These resources would lend themselves well for both individual and group study.

### Books

- ***An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*** by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (Beacon, 2015)
- ***An African American and Latinx History of the United States*** by Paul Ortiz (Beacon, 2018)
- ***Becoming an Anti-Racist Church: Journeying Toward Wholeness*** by Joseph Barndt (Fortress, 2011)
- ***Between the World and Me*** by Ta-Nehisi Coates (Spiegel & Grau, 2015)
- ***Enter the River: Healing Steps from White Privilege Toward Racial Reconciliation*** by Jody Miller Shearer (Herald, 1994)
- ***How to be Black*** by Baratunde Thurston (Harper, 2012)
- ***It's the Little Things: Everyday Interactions That Anger, Annoy and Divide the Races*** by Lena Williams (Harcourt, 2000)
- ***Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*** by Bryan Stevenson (Spiegel & Grau, 2015)
- ***Let's Get Real: What People of Color Can't Say and Whites Won't Ask about Racism*** by Lee Mun Wah (Stir Fry Seminars, 2011)
- ***The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness***, anniversary edition, by Michelle Alexander (New Press, 2020); resources and study guides available at [newjimcrow.com](http://newjimcrow.com)
- ***Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*** by Drew G.I. Hart (Herald, 2016)
- ***White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*** by Robin DiAngelo (Beacon, 2018)

### Videos

- **PBS Frontline: A Class Divided** (March 1985): The day after Martin Luther King, Jr. was killed, a teacher in a small town in Iowa tried a daring classroom experiment. She decided to treat children with blue eyes as superior to children with brown eyes. Frontline explores what those children learned about discrimination and how it still affects them:  
[www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/class-divided](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/class-divided)  
Teachers guide: [www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/teach/divided](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/teach/divided)
- **Race: The Power of An Illusion**: Award-winning documentary series by California Newsreel: contains episodes on The Difference Between Us; The Story We Tell; The House We Live In:  
[www.racepowerofanillusion.org/](http://www.racepowerofanillusion.org/)  
Accompanying resources: [newsreel.org/video/RACE-THE-POWER-OF-AN-ILLUSION](http://newsreel.org/video/RACE-THE-POWER-OF-AN-ILLUSION)
- **A Time for Burning** (1966, 58 min): Features an all-white Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska, as their young pastor tries to get the congregation to reach out to their fellow black Lutherans. Commissioned by the Lutheran Church in America and nominated as Best Documentary Feature in the 1967 Academy Awards: [archive.org/details/atimeforburning](http://archive.org/details/atimeforburning)
- **Jesus Wasn't White**: Mennonite Mission Network resource; discussion questions appear in text below video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOzU4qFft3M&feature=emb\\_logo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOzU4qFft3M&feature=emb_logo)
- **The Future of Race in America**: Michelle Alexander at TEDx Columbus:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQ6H-Mz6hgw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQ6H-Mz6hgw)

- **What Would You Do? The Bike Thief:** Discussion starter about racial profiling: [www.thesociologicalcinema.com/videos/racial-profiling-the-bike-thief](http://www.thesociologicalcinema.com/videos/racial-profiling-the-bike-thief)

#### Articles/handouts/discussion starters

- Look for opportunities to learn about your local and regional history, especially from the perspective of non-white peoples.
  - Which indigenous peoples called the land home which you now occupy?
  - Which stories are the ones people didn't grow up hearing?
  - Which things did people avoid talking about?
  - An example of this type of work: **"Portrait of a Sundown Town: Coming to terms with racism in a 'Mennonite' community,"** in *Mennonite World Review*, Jan. 10, 2014, by Dan Shenk of Faith Mennonite Church, a CDC congregation: [www.mennoworld.org/archived/2014/1/20/portrait-sundown-town/](http://www.mennoworld.org/archived/2014/1/20/portrait-sundown-town/)
- **"Escaping the Web of White Supremacy: Our Most Urgent Task in the Work of Character Formation,"** in *The Cresset* (Advent-Christmas 2019, Vol. LXXXIII, No. 2, pp. 4-8) by Richard T. Hughes: [thecresset.org/2019/Advent/Hughes\\_A19.html](http://thecresset.org/2019/Advent/Hughes_A19.html)
- **"Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack"** by Peggy McIntosh: [www.racialequitytools.org/resourcefiles/mcintosh.pdf](http://www.racialequitytools.org/resourcefiles/mcintosh.pdf)
- **Diversity training discussion handouts** from StirFry Seminars / Lee Mun Wah in categories such as Exploring the Roots of Our Disconnections; Ways to Reconnect and Rebuild Trust; Mindful Techniques That Create Community. Examples include "21 Ways to Stop a Conversation About Diversity," "Unhealthy Ways of Communicating," and "The Art of Listening": [www.stirfryseminars.com/resources/handouts.php](http://www.stirfryseminars.com/resources/handouts.php)
- Teachingtolerance.org: **"My Family Journey"**: <https://www.tolerance.org/lesson/my-family-journey>

#### Consultants or experience-based learning

- **Intercultural competence consulting** through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) with Nekeisha Alayna Alexis, M.A.: [ambs.edu/invite](http://ambs.edu/invite)
- **Work in Progress Choral Ensemble** of Mennonite Mission Network: This group is available to lead worship, preach, teach and provide contextualized workshops about diversity and holistic witness: [www.mennonitemission.net/about/staff/Work%20in%20Progress%20Ensemble](http://www.mennonitemission.net/about/staff/Work%20in%20Progress%20Ensemble)
- **Trail of Death: A Pilgrimage of Remembrance, Lament and Transformation**, a biennial summer course of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary that traces the route of the 1838 forced removal by the U.S. military of about 850 Potawatomi people from their ancestral homeland in northern Indiana to present-day Osawatomie, Kansas; likely to be held next in the summer of 2021; one can participate in the learning tour just as a trip, without academic credit: [ambs.edu/trailofdeath](http://ambs.edu/trailofdeath)
- **Sankofa: A Journey Toward Racial Righteousness** of the Evangelical Covenant Church, an intentional, cross-racial prayer journey that seeks to assist disciples of Christ on their move toward a righteous response to the social ills related to racism: [covchurch.org/justice/racial-righteousness/sankofa/](http://covchurch.org/justice/racial-righteousness/sankofa/)
- **The Ongoing White Supremacy of Our Everyday Lives: Consider, Confront, Change**, a symposium organized by Rainbow Mennonite Church, a Western District Conference congregation in Kansas City, Kansas, in 2018. While this event is past, it can serve as a model for congregations who would consider organizing events like this in CDC: [rainbowmennonite.org/symposium/](http://rainbowmennonite.org/symposium/)