

## **Reading List – for Undoing Institutional Racism**

*Curated by the Undoing Racism Team (a committee of PNC Justice & Witness Ministries)*

### **Book List**

*Consider reading these with your book group, or a small group at your church:*

***The Cross and the Lynching Tree*** by James Cone

Theologian James H. Cone explores the two most emotionally charged symbols in the history of the African American community and their interconnection in the history and souls of black folk.

***America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America*** by James E. Wallace

America's problem with race has deep roots, with the country's foundation tied to the near extermination of one race of people and the enslavement of another. Racism is truly our nation's original sin.

***White Fragility: Why It's So Hard For White People to Talk About Racism*** by Robin DiAngelo

A groundbreaking book exploring the counterproductive reactions white people have when discussing racism that serve to protect their positions and maintain racial inequality.

***Anti-Blackness and Christian Ethics*** by Vincent W. Lloyd and Andrew Prevot

From police violence to mass incarceration, from environmental racism to micro-aggressions, the moral gravity of anti-black racism is attracting broad attention. How do Christian ideas, practices, and institutions contribute to today's struggle for racial justice?

***So You Want To Talk About Race*** by Ijeoma Oluo

Ijeoma Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from intersectionality and affirmative action to "model minorities" in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race and racism, and how they infect almost every aspect of American life.

***Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Racial Reconciliation*** by Jennifer Harvey

In this provocative book Jennifer Harvey argues for a radical shift in how justice-committed white Christians think about race. She calls for moving away from the reconciliation paradigm that currently dominates interracial relations and embracing instead a *reparations* paradigm.

***Deep Denial, The Persistence of White Supremacy in the United States History and Life*** by David Billings

*Deep Denial* explains why race is still with us, and what the Civil Rights Movement can tell us about today. Each chapter begins with an intimate and unsparingly personal account from the author's own life. After drawing the reader into his topic, he lays out the historical facts, while still retaining the master storyteller's sense of engagement with the reader.

***Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race*** by Debby Irving

A brutally honest, unflinching exploration of race and personal identity, told with heart by a truly gifted storyteller. Much as Irving's family sought to shield her from the contours of the nation's racial drama, so too do far too many white Americans continue to do the same.

***Between the World and Me*** by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Written as a letter to the author's teenage son about the feelings, symbolism, and realities associated with being Black in the United States.

***Just Mercy*** by Bryan Stevenson

A memoir that aggregates and personalizes the struggle against injustice in the story of one activist lawyer.

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### **Articles**

“Confronting Racism is Not About the Needs of White People” by Ijeoma Olo @ The Guardian

“Why I’m Absolutely an Angry Black Woman” @ Huffpost

“Gear Down, Big Shifters” @ KatyKatiKate.com

“How Whiteness Distorts Our Democracy, with Eddie Glaude Jr” @ Vox

“White Supremacy Must Be Undone—Institution by Institution” @ The Washington Post

“‘Jesus Never Charged a Leper a Co-Pay’: the Rise of the Religious Left” @ The Guardian

“On Black Difficulty: Toni Morrison and the Thrill of Imperiousness” @ SLATE

“Why Black People Discriminate Against Ourselves: the Toxic Legacy of Colorism” @ The Guardian

“Explaining White Privilege to a Broke White Person” @ The Good Men Project

“‘Racial Battle Fatigue’ is Real: Victims of Racial Microaggressions Are Stressed Like Soldiers at War”  
@ Atlanta Black Star

“STUDY: White Americans’ Consumer Habits Pollute the Air That Black and Latinx People Breathe”  
@ Colorlines

“Talking Race and the Environment” @ Presbyterian Mission

“Equality is Not Black Men ‘Getting Away With’ Heinous Crimes The Way White Men Do” @ Mademoire

“African American Churches and the Neglected Public Minister” @ Huffpost

“No, I Won’t Stop Saying White Supremacy” @ The Good Men Project

“Bryan Stevenson Wants the U.S. to Face Its History” @ The New York Magazine

“50 Percent of Pastors Worry They’ll Offend People If They Speak About Social Issues” @ Relevant

“What It Means to ‘Hold Space’ For People, Plus Eight Tips On How To Do It Well” @ HeatherPlett.com

“Christians, Islamophobia is Our Problem” @ Sojourners

“Islamophobia Is A Global Crisis – And It’s Time We View It That Way” @ Huffpost