Racial Justice Bibliography and Resource List

Welcome to the Racial Justice Bibliography and Resource List created by the Standing with People of Color Committee in collaboration with the Church of the Brethren and On Earth Peace. We've curated a list of books, articles, media, and additional resources that provide insight, education, and understanding of anti-racism and racial justice.

This guide will be continually improved as we obtain and identify more relevant resources and hope it will aid in reflection, discussion, and personal growth.

We welcome and encourage your suggestions and comments on this guide. Please email us at: standingwithpeopleofcolor@brethren.org.

Thank you for taking your time to consult any of these resources.

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Biblical/Theological

Chad Brennan was a keynote and Equipping session speaker at the 2023 Annual Conference in Cincinnati. A video series is also available from the authors.


Cone reads the crucifixion of Jesus in light of the lynching of Black Americans and the lynching of Black Americans in light of Jesus’ crucifixion. Cone argues that American Christians cannot properly understand Jesus’ crucifixion at the hands of the Romans without learning to face our history of lynching Black Americans.


Angela Parker, a Black Womanist New Testament scholar, wrote this book which challenges the White supremacist authoritarianism behind many interpretations of the biblical text. She describes how a white male interpretation of the scripture texts has been suffocating to women and to People of Color and how the doctrine of inerrancy is really a cover for white male interpretations of the text. In contrast, Dr. Parker teaches how to read the Bible so as to “Let God breathe in us.”

Swanson, David W. *Redisciplining the White Church from Cheap Diversity to True Solidarity*, Westmont, IL: IVP, 2009.


Tran, Jonathan. “Antiracism’s mission drift,” *The Christian Century*, (May 2023), 31-32. Tran levels a bracing critique of current antiracism from the left. While this will likely be uncomfortable reading for people whose understanding of racism is mostly informed by authors like DiAngelo and Kendi, I think Tran's perspective is well grounded. His most pointed criticism of mainstream antiracism is that by mostly ignoring issues of political economy, mainstream antiracism provides moral cover and assistance to neoliberal capitalist exploitation. Tran issues a call for Christians on the left to seriously rethink our approach to racism in light of the Gospel.


Tran's book is difficult to easily classify. It spans ethnography, political economy, and theology. Tran intended his book to be an intervention into mainstream antiracism. Writing as a theologian who has been involved in various ways in myriad antiracist efforts over his career as an academic theologian (who happens to be Vietnamese American), Tran reflects on some of the shortcomings that he began to see in anti-racism, as it is currently conceptualized and practiced. Tran draws heavily on Black Marxist scholars including Adolph Reed, Jr., Karen Fields, and Barbara Fields to build a convincing critique of mainstreams antiracism’s silence regarding political economy. Tran, drawing on these scholars, argues that racism in the US cannot be correctly understood apart from the particular, historically specific political economic formations in which racism developed. Tran's ethnographic study of an Asian-American church-plant in the Bay Area provides a beautiful, realistic, and theologically sophisticated witness of what living faithful to the Gospel can look like within the context of “racial capitalism.”


**Biographies and Memoirs**


**Church of the Brethren Statements and Resources**


https://www.brethren.org/ac/statements/2007-separate-no-more/
This is a landmark document in the Church of the Brethren denomination. It provides a Biblical vision and rationale for striving to better embody the vision of the church depicted in Revelation 7:9-10 as a “great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,”Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!” Included in this text are instructions to particular agencies in the denomination.

Through telling the story of intercultural ministry at West Charleston Church of the Brethren, Caleb Kragt, co-Pastor of West Charleston CoB, highlights the critical role of the church as a place where our stories of intercultural relationships—both our brokenness and our healing—can be redeemed and re-woven into a diverse tapestry that reflects God’s care for persons of all ethnicities and cultures. Kragt does an admirable job of honestly facing racist elements in the history of the Southern Ohio District and of confessing these failures in the light of the Gospel. This is an excellent resource for church leadership who are interested in intercultural ministry and working against racism in the church.

https://vimeo.com/463554538

Patler is a historian in the Church of the Brethren. This article is an excellent account of Mattie Cunningham Dolby’s life and ministry in and out of the Church of the Brethren. Dolby was the first African American woman (and the first woman of any background) ordained to the ministry.

Educational Study Guides and Materials

Kirwan Institute, The Ohio State University. Implicit Bias Module Series. 
https://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/implicit-bias-module-series
Fiction


Group Studies


Racism feeds on denial. Lament moves us to tell the truth. And the truth can set us free. Stories of racial injustice fill our news feeds. Yet for too long many in the church have been hesitant to speak up about racism in its many forms. We fear offending others, of using the wrong words, of not knowing what to say. In *Lamenting Racism*, a team of leading pastors and theologians invite us into the transformative and motivating practice of biblical lament as a powerful way to confront racism. Through their conversations in six thought-provoking videos, they name that God’s people of every race are called to consider how we have been shaped and formed by race, and they guide us into experiencing lament as an anti-racism practice. Encouraging congregations to reclaim the lost art of biblical lament, these pastors and theologians model a powerful way to pour out the fear, shame, grief, and rage of racism as we cry out to God in prayer. In the process, we will be transformed and motivated to reclaim hope and to act for a world shaped by God’s inclusive vision of love and blessing. This six-session study invites church groups to engage in the practice of biblical lament as a powerful tool in the church’s struggle against racism.


The Episcopal Church Sacred Ground Team. *Sacred Ground*. (11 Part Film-based Series) [https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/on-demand-webinar/](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/on-demand-webinar/)

This program has been in use broadly within the Episcopal church for several years as part of their denomination-wide commitment to racial reconciliation. The resources that are part of the Sacred Ground program would be on a level that is accessible to Brethren but the beauty of the program is in the 11-week virtual space conversations that are at the heart of the program. Fostering a trusting, safe space for folks to explore these difficult topics is a key component. The groups are often all-white groups while some are mixed racial groups. Facilitators guide the conversations.

Just Faith Ministries. *The Land Is Not Our Own: Seeking Repair Alongside Indigenous Communities* - JustFaith Ministries

**History**


**Weekly Book Study with Mark Charles:**
In 2021 Mark live streamed a 14-part book study going through Unsettling Truths. These videos can be viewed on Mark’s [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#). They are also archived on his [IGTV](#).

**Archive of Studies (YouTube):**
Chapter: Introduction, One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Six, Seven, Eight, Nine, Ten, Eleven, Twelve, Conclusion

**Book Study Special:** [Unsettling Truths - Book Study Special (10 signed books and virtual Q&A with Mark Charles)](#) | [Unsettling Truths Store (square.site)](#)


Theoharis presents a complexified history of the Civil Rights Movement as a much-needed corrective to various feel-good myths that have come to hold sway in our collective imagination about this critical moment in American history. While doing so, Theoharis troubles the historical waters and brings to the fore the eminently material goals that participants in various local struggles (that came to be known under the name “the Civil Rights Movement”) strove mightily to secure in order to establish a truly equal and just society. Theoharis also provides a salutary reminder that the Civil Rights Movement was a diverse, conflicted, polyvocal collection of smaller interest groups, coalitions, etc. that were not all ’of one mind.’

**History: Asian American Pacific Islander Resources (AAPI)**


**Social Sciences**


This is now a staple in learning about where we are in this century. The statistics are horrifying and compelling evidence that “something is wrong”.


This has been a classic staple to study. It’s written for dominant culture “white” people to help them understand their own vulnerable journeys.


Kazu is one of our nation’s most gifted trainers in nonviolence training. His personal journey and examples make this book easily readable. He is Japanese-American and is not an “academic”. He provides practical steps to implement nurturing our country towards healing and justice in all contexts in our own daily lives. At the end of his book, Kazu shares 8 responses to criticisms of nonviolence. Brethren author David C. Jehnsen (Ohio) and his colleague, Bernard LaFayette, Jr. wrote the Forward. (LaFayette and Jehnsen are the coauthors for the Nonviolence training manual used throughout the world and in most training programs offered through On Earth Peace.)


This book by a white writer is a call for white people to contribute to racial justice rather than unconsciously perpetuate patterns of racism.


www.brethren.org/swpoc | www.onearthpeace.org/swpoc | standingwithpeopleofcolor@brethren.org
Worship Speaker at AC Cincinnati 2023, “The Vine, the Branches and the Fruit” Note: All conference worship services and sermons may be purchased from Brethren Press. Giving voice to the real-life stories of Black millennials and younger adults, Sheila Wise Rowe goes beyond their struggles to point towards hope, joy, and healing. Drawing on years of counseling trauma and abuse survivors, she provides stories, reflections, and tools for readers of all ages as they journey toward healing from the barriers affecting them, their children, and their communities.


Wilkerson defines “caste” as “an artificial construction, a fixed and embedded ranking of human value that sets the presumed supremacy of one group against the presumed inferiority of other groups on the basis of ancestry and often immutable traits, traits that would be neutral in the abstract but are ascribed life-and-death meaning in a hierarchy favoring the dominant caste whose forebears designed it. She also describes the struggle in our nation today as a result of the “dominant group status threat.” For observations as a Brethren book group study, contact Pastor Carrie at the San Diego First Church of the Brethren at pastorcarriecesar@gmail.com.


**Spiritual Life**


Teens/Young Adult


**Children (8 - 12)**


**Children (4 - 8)**


This book is delightful and should be in every CoB church library. This 15-year-old teenager is brilliant and passionate. She inherited her grandfather’s public speaking gift and she clearly has a vision she intends to live out.


YouTube Read-Aloud link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RW9Y3pRjbJM&list=PLF8eTiKnYWzyfmdio08rh1bnDcGDHaXsQ&index=3

www.brethren.org/swpoc | www.onearthpeace.org/swpoc | standingwithpeopleofcolor@brethren.org
Resource List
Blogs and Articles

10 Root Causes of Racism

106 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice

Enabling Intercultural Dialogue (UNESCO)

Find the Other America by Anne Braden

Implicit Bias Assessment (Harvard)
There are several assessment tools being published now, this is a commonly used one. If you go to the Underground Railroad Museum in Cincinnati you can sit at a monitor and take it there.

Marx, Race and Neoliberalism by Adolph Reed Jr.

Recognizing Racism in Rural Ohio – a blog by Kirsten Harvey

Talking about Race: Whiteness

The Roots of Racism by David Livingstone Smith, PhD

The Case for Reparations by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation by Gail C. Christopher

Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Implementation Guide

What does the Lord Require - Statements on Racism and Social Justice from CoB

Where does it hurt? An Interview with Ruby Sales.

White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack - by Peggy McIntosh
This resource is short and it is the “classic” resource used for decades. For those two reasons and that it is easy to read and understand, it is worth at least skimming.
Movies and Television

13th (Netflix)

42

Between the World and Me

Celebrate Native American and Alaska Native Heritage Month | PBS

Four Little Girls Documentary

Freedom Riders

Hidden Figures

Just Mercy

Origin

Salute Documentary

The Best of Enemies

The Great Debaters

To Kill a Mockingbird

True Justice: Bryan Stevenson’s Fight for Equality

When They See Us
Podcasts, Music and Videos

Podcasts

1619 Project Podcast

Dreaming of Eloheh - Randy Woodly on Following the Harmony Way

How to Be an Antiracist featuring Brene Brown and Ibram X. Kendi

Pass the Mic - The Witness Podcast Radio

Resources for White People to Learn and Talk About Race and Racism

Revealing your Unconscious Part 1 - Hidden Brain - NPR

Revealing your Unconscious Part 2 - Hidden Brain - NPR

Seeing White - Scene On Radio

Uncivil by Gimlet Media

'Whistling Vivaldi' and Beating Stereotypes - NPR

White Lies - NPR

Music

Billie Holiday - “Strange Fruit” Live 1959 [Reelin’ In the Years Archives

Black History Month Spotify Playlist
Videos

Building the Beloved Community by Dr. Miguel De La Torre

Being an Ally with People of Color by Katelin Hansen, PhD

Contrasting Current Activism with Civil Rights Movements of the Past by Rev. Jennifer Baily

Deconstructing White Privilege by Dr. Robin DiAngelo
Her book about White Fragility has been widely used.

Holding the Peace: Quaker Nonviolence in the Time of Black Lives Matter - QuakerSpeak

Holy Post - Race in America Part 1

Holy Post - Race in America Part 2

Meaningful Conversations about Race by Dr. David Anderson Hooker

The Intersections of Oppression by Rev. Dr. Pamela Lightsey

Websites

Church of the Brethren

Brethren Press Listing of Racism Resources

Church of the Brethren Racial Justice Resources Part 1

Church of the Brethren Racial Justice Resources Part 2

Church of the Brethren Intercultural Ministries
Faith Communities

Anti-Racism Basics

Anti-Racism Education – Racial & Ethnic Diversity Resources for Christian Higher Education (cccu.org)

Anti-Racism | OH Council Churches (ohcouncilchs.org)

Anti-Racism Resources for Mennonite Churches | Mennonite Church USA (mennoniteusa.org)

Dismantling Racism by Mennonite USA

Forming a Faith-Rooted Advocate Network Group | Sojourners

National Council of Churches Anti-Racism Resources

Racial Equity Institute

Racial Reconciliation Resources | Lifeway

Resources for Adult Formation with an Emphasis on Race and Diversity (buildfaith.org)

United Methodist - Hispanic Ministry Resources

Refugees/Immigrants

The United States has a rich history of welcoming refugees to begin new lives, but restrictive policies and challenges to the resettlement program do arise. We urge supporters of refugees to share their experiences with friends and family, as well as with their elected officials. There are many great resources to help you get started. We have collected a number of them here. These organizations provide opportunities to stay informed, learn about what faith communities and others are saying and doing around the country in support of refugees, and what actions are needed as the environment shifts. You may want to follow them on Facebook and X, as well as accessing their web resources.

- Church World Service
- Interfaith Immigration Coalition
- Refugee Council USA
- Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Programs
Secular

A Detailed List of Anti-Racism Resources on Medium.com
Black Lives Matter at School - Social Justice Books

Implicit Bias

Michele Norris - The Race Card Project
Racial Equity Tools Fundamentals and Resource List
Black Lives Matter at School: Collective Value - Bookshop.org