



Resources for the Congregations

Suggestions for Eliminating Institutional Racism

From the Diocese of Central PA task force on Eliminating Institutional Racism

From the Episcopal Church Center:

The Episcopal Church Center: Fifty Years Later: the State of Racism in America
<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/state-racism>

The Episcopal Church Center: Fifty Years Later; the State of Racism in America facilitators guide
http://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/state_of_racism_facilitator_guide.pdf

From Hearts and Mind Booknotes:

All God's Children: A Biblical Critique of Racism Steven McKenzie (Abingdon) \$14.95 A powerful study, mostly Biblical, showing how the Bible dealt with race and nationalistic pride and how Christ's church began as a racially inclusive community. Very helpful for building Biblical foundations.

Peppermint-filled Piñatas: Breaking Through Tolerance and Embracing Love Eric Michael Bryant (Zondervan) \$12.99 These short chapters with poignant stories illustrate various ways we can get beyond our stereotypes, and even beyond "toleration" towards authentic relationships and true Christian care. A bridge-building message about grace, love, inclusive care, and Godly outreach written by a young evangelical youth pastor. Very fun, engaging and inviting.

Living in Color: Embracing God's Passion for Diversity Randy Woodley (IVP) \$16.00 This is the best book to celebrate ethnic and racial diversity, inviting us to a multi-cultural concern, beyond issues of "black and white." An excellent primer on the subject, a must-have resource. Written by a passionate Native Christian, this is a very readable and solid approach. Highly recommended.

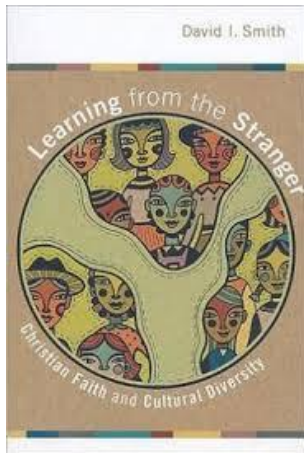
Cultural Intelligence: Improving Your CQ to Engage Our Multicultural World

David A. Livermore (Baker) \$17.99 Although this is designed for serious youth workers, helping youth and family ministries grapple with important issues, it is helpful for anyone...I can hardly think of a more up to date and urgent book that helps us understand various world cultures, the ethnic and racial diversity common these days, and the need to have some insight about how to be more effective in relating to others. Comprehensive and accessible, proactive and helpful. I wish I could read you the fascinating chapter titles---you'd really see how thorough it is...great!

Learning From the Stranger: Christian Faith and Cultural Diversity

David Smith

(Eerdmans) \$20.00 Smith wrote the important book about teaching foreign languages rooted in a Christian worldview (***The Gift of the Stranger***) and here



he offers a broader more foundational approach to what "culture" is, discussing how cultural differences affects our perceptions and behaviors, and why Christians need a robust theology of hospitality. He shows how Christ's call to love our neighbor involved learning from others, including "cultural strangers." This is a remarkably thoughtful bit of Biblical and theological study, peppered with David's own stories, insights, and experiences. It is a beautiful book, a great example of extraordinary, deeply integrated thinking, a wonderful example of distinctively Christian scholarship. Smith teaches German at Calvin

College and is renowned for his perspectives on uniquely Christian theories and habits of education. Highly recommended for the biggest picture.

Understanding and Dismantling Racism: The Challenge of 21st Century White America

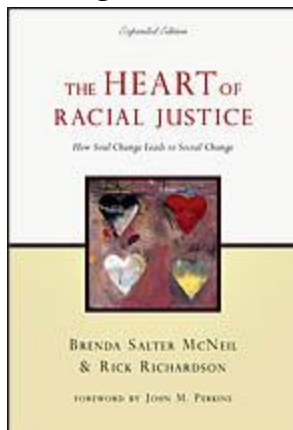
Joseph Brandt (Augsburg-Fortress) \$17.00 Recently expanded and re-issued, this is a demanding and serious call to rethink racial assumptions, white privilege and work towards diversity and justice. Very impressive, highly regarded among trainers and activists. The author has served as a pastor in an urban Lutheran church although some evangelicals might suggest the book isn't terribly overt about spirituality or gospel proclamation. This is not a criticism, I do not think, but a realization that he presumes much that is discussed in other books about reconciliation and justice. This is the manual for serious work, self-evaluation, and a re-orientation of values and systems, exposing and undoing racism and its structural injustices. Very important. Glad for this new, updated edition, too.

The Church Enslaved: A Spirituality of Racial Reconciliation Tony Campolo & Michael Battle (Fortress) \$17.00 Tony--the passionate and humorous Baptist preacher and sociologist--combines here with an African-American Episcopalian scholar and churchman, to offer a fabulous, introductory, but very wise study. This is hard-hitting, prophetic, and yet kind and pastoral, lifting up contemplative practices and (un)common friendship as a key to new ways of faithful discipleship. Has a chapter on the vision and work of Desmond Tutu that is very nice. Includes a very, very good study guide, making it excellent as a study book for congregations.

Beyond Rhetoric: Reconciliation as a Way of Life Samuel George Hines & Curtis Paul DeYoung (Judson) \$14.00 Two exceptionally important African American leaders offer us here a warm, friendly, yet hard-hitting study of not just racism, but of brokenness and alienation, inviting us to the gospel of reconciliation as a key to faithful living. My, my, this is vital and robust stuff, solid and insightful, insisting on action, not just talk. Very impressive.

Gracism: The Art of Inclusion David A. Anderson (IVP) \$17.00 This is a lovely book based on grace (the play on words in the title is crucial!) Anderson has started as vibrant multi-cultural congregation and here shows the positive way to show God's favor to others, reaching out in care and grace. The author is rather young, quite energetic, has a Ph.D. from Oxford, and is leading his exciting Bridgeway congregation as an agent of hope. Sweet!

The Heart of Racial Justice: How Soul Change Leads to Social Change Brenda Salter McNeil & Rick Richardson (expanded edition) \$15.00



Just a few months ago this new edition, with expanded content and a new cover, was released and many have noted how great it. With a forward by John Perkins, this is an excellent resource not to be missed. (It has a very useful study guide in the back, too.) It exposes important material about the racial divides that plague us, yet it firmly places these struggles within the context of spiritual warfare and spiritual transformation. Can we allow Christ to remake us? Can we do evangelism in a way that is truly about reconciliation? Can we resist social and structural evil with the power of the gospel? Can social change emerge from serious soul change? Is there a relationship between, say, healing prayer, and working against racial injustice?

Free to Be Bound: Church Beyond the Color Line Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (NavPress) \$12.99 Jon has become known as a co-author and partner-in-crime with Shane Claiborne and the other radically Christian servants in the "new monastics" movement. He here tells his story of moving to a largely black, rural, Southern church and taking up his place among his brothers and sisters there. Chris Rice says that this is "one of the most fresh and most important new voices in the American church." Shane writes that it "sings truth like old spirituals and lets you sip justice like sweet tea." Gotta love a book like that. Good discussion questions, too.

Race Matters Cornel West (Vintage) \$12.95 Although brother West is a follower of Christ and an active churchman, this book isn't overtly religious, published by a mainstream general market publishing house. Yet, it resonates with the things of God, has profoundly spiritual insights about the nature of the Western culture, and is, as the Washington Post review said, "as moving as any of the sermons of Martin Luther King, as profound as W.E.B. Du Bois...as exhilarating in their offering of liberation as James Baldwin's early essays." I think it would be hard to be articulate about the conversations about race in our time without knowing this significant work. A must.