

Anti-Racism Resources – Yvonne Gilmore

1. Pick your own cotton

Justice making is a process not an event or a one-time hack. Study your own margins and own your discomfort and curiosity. Piety is connected to social identity. Study of your own landscape, racial background, immigrant history, and labor will open up possibilities and relations that had not been previously considered.

2. "Church is where we tell the truth"

Practice telling the truth and actually meaning what you say. Resist distortions of identity and masks by telling the truth. Consider using liturgy, songs, and resources that equip individuals and communities with language to tell the truth.

3. Resist isolation

Are we more than our relations? Gather with others. Cultivate an accountability journal or partner or group.

4. Practice "calling in" and "calling out" publicly

Practice invoking challenge and hope. When we practice lifting each other as we climb, we can better pivot from defensiveness to inquiry in the service of all.

5. Take care of yourself and the gifts of God in your community

Acknowledge, care for, and make visible persons and siblings that have been invisible, and community needs that have been invisible and ignored. Racism thrives in conditions of scarcity and negative competition. Examples abound among Disciples throughout the United States and Canada including the Disciples that built a pool so persons from different racial backgrounds could swim together; churches that grow food and cultivate gardens as an act of food justice to resist food insecurity; New Covenant Christian Church developed a legal aid clinic to help work for criminal justice reform. Churches are also caring for their communities through grief retreats, book clubs, and efforts to support education and community development.

Please visit the website of the Constructive Theologies Project blog for more information and resources by young adult theological thought leaders within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) seeking to cultivate ideas that move across racial, vocational, intellectual and economic lines to address the possibilities that face the Disciples of Christ today.

<https://constructivetheologies.org/>

I recommend the following books for further reading:

- *Womanist Ethics and the Cultural Production of Evil* by Emilie M. Townes
- *Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds* by Adrienne Maree Brown
- *The Cross of Redemption* by James Baldwin