

Building Resilience and Community in the Face of Racism and Climate Change

October 26, 2014 Philadelphia Quarter Program Meeting

I. Small Group Queries

From Amy Kietzman (Central Philadelphia MM)

How we treat each other and how we treat the Earth are deeply related. The [laws and] institutions of our society that dictate how we treat each other and the Earth are also nearly one and the same. Both are rooted in what can be called the domination system or Empire. This system is at least 5000 years old and transcends all national boundaries and all continents. It is based on the myth of redemptive violence; that is, an assumption that the only way, in the end, to keep order and to serve the greater good, is through violence. Every civilization, including our modern day empires, use lethal force to keep their citizens in line and to ensure ever greater access to the resources necessary for survival and growth. This has led to treating both people and the earth as resources to be exploited.

Are there seeds of racial discrimination or domination in how we live, where we live, what we consume, where we send our children to school, or what we eat?

Do we treat each child and each adult – regardless of skin color, national origin, ethnicity, education, sexual orientation, gender identity, or social status - with respect and reverence, as a child of G!d? Do we live in a way that honors all of G!d's creation?

How are we building community, especially community based on mutual respect and caring for each other, all beings and the Earth, itself? In what ways are we working with others to dismantle the institutional racism in society? In what ways are we helping to bring about the Kin-dom of G!d?

II. Resources from: Mini White Privilege Conference, October 24-25, 2014 (Friends Center)

Watch

PrepSchool Negro: GFS scholarship student Andre Robert Lee grew up in Phila ghetto
<http://www.theprepschoolnegro.org/>, or PBS video <http://video.pbs.org/video/2365172448/>

American Promise: 13 yr journey of 2 African American boys <http://www.pbs.org/pov/americanpromise/>

Park Avenue: Money, Power and the American Dream: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6niWzomA_So

Unequal Opportunity Race – animated short. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBb5TgOXgNY>

Read

Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race, Debby Irving

Birth of a White Nation: The Invention of White People and its Relevance Today, Jacqueline Battalora

What White Children Need to Know about Race, article:

<http://www.nais.org/Magazines-Newsletters/ISMagazine/Pages/What-White-Children-Need-to-Know-About-Race.aspx>

Do - Take the Implicit Bias test on race: (see <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/>)