

# THRIVING *together*

## Unpacking Whiteness in the Church

### Moving from Awareness to Action

**Thriving Together** is a workshop series for congregations. Rooted in questions the church is asking, **Thriving Together** seeks to engage clergy and laity in conversation in real time. This free workshop series is offered to congregations of any denomination attending as a group of 3-8 persons, with at least one clergy person and at least one lay leader.

**April 20, April 27, and May 4 at 1:00pm EDT / 12:00pm CDT / 11:00am MDT / 10:00am PDT**

**Each session is 90 minutes via Zoom. Registration is required but free.**



### April 20 — Encountering Whiteness: Developing a New Pro-Reconciling Identity

#### Rev. Dr. April Johnson

Executive Director, Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The first session of this series will focus on Identity Development in the local church. We will ask ourselves what it means to be an anti-racist church. Rev. Dr. Johnson will call the church to ask what assets we

bring to the reconciliation movement. This session will introduce the church to the meaning of Whiteness and how the church can build a new identity as a Pro-Reconciling Congregation.



### April 27 — Understanding Whiteness: Centering Anti-Racism in Predominantly White Spaces

#### Rev. Dr. A.J. Bush

Pastor of Congregational and Community Engagement, Trinity United Methodist Church, Denver, CO

Christianity is not immune to the problem of Whiteness. In today's church, it takes intentional work to be grounded in Gospel, rather than Whiteness. What is needed to help the local church, particularly the white local church, challenge Whiteness? How

do we begin conversations in predominantly white local churches? What tools, spiritual practices, and resources are needed? This session will explore Whiteness in the particular context of the local church and what particular responses are needed.

### May 4 — Dismantling Whiteness: Moving Toward Becoming Authentically Multi-Cultural and Multi-Ethnic



#### Rev. Luis Gierbolini

Associate Pastor, Central Christian Church Indianapolis, IN



#### Rev. Vinnetta Golphin-Wilkerson

Co-Moderator, Central Rocky Mountain Region



#### Rev. Dr. Chris Wilson

Senior Pastor, St. Andrew Christian Church, Overland Park, KS

Building on the previous two sessions, session three acknowledges Whiteness in our congregations and proposes steps toward authenticity. The panel of leaders will help the congregation understand what it means to

be multicultural and multi-ethnic. Churches will learn why inclusion is not enough and practical ways to begin this important work.

**Thriving Together** is a project of the Thriving Congregations Project at Lexington Theological Seminary, a Lilly Endowment, Inc. funded initiative.

Please visit <https://bit.ly/ThrivingTogetherReconciliation> to register for this series, or simply scan the code!



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