

## **WHAT IS THE SACRED GROUND RACE DIALOGUE SERIES?**

Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups will move through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. The 12-part facilitated discussion series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

This series is open to all but will begin with Metro DC Synod-ELCA rostered leaders and then move out to all the congregations in the Synod. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.

## **HOW OFTEN DO WE MEET?**

The frequency of sessions can be according to your group's needs. Recommended: Every two weeks with breaks for holidays. (Weekly would be too dense, monthly might be too infrequent.)

## **WHAT IS IN THE CURRICULUM?**

A set of documentary films and short videos via streaming including readings to registered dialogue groups as PDFs in a password-protected area;

Two assigned core books, to be purchased or borrowed by each participant: *Waking up White And Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving, and *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman; and

The Sacred Ground Study Guide, with suggestions for getting started, tips for facilitators, a session-by-session curriculum with reflections on key themes, and a religious resources section.

## **WHO CREATED SACRED GROUND AND WHY?**

The dialogue series developer and author is Katrina Browne, producer/director of the documentary *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*. Browne is a lifelong Episcopalian who is dedicated to racial justice and healing. As a white woman, she is particularly concerned with the important work people need to do in conversation with each other, as part of the larger project of *Becoming Beloved Community*.

"I'm excited to share some powerful, thought-provoking films and readings with groups eager to take next steps on this collective journey," Browne says. "I'm convinced that dialogue – especially among white people – can be a key healthy step in the long journey to transformation." Browne engaged a diverse group of advisors and reviewers to guide the process. The Metro DC Synod especially appreciates the generosity of the Episcopal Church in granting us permission to use this curriculum.

## **WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?**

This resource was designed for use by Episcopal congregations and has been slightly adapted and modified for use by the ELCA Metro DC Synod, its leaders and congregations.

**WHEN CAN I START?**

The series will start in late summer 2021. You will receive updates from the Synod website and opportunities to register. This facilitated series is being coordinated by the Metro DC Synod's Racial Equity Team. Come to learn, share, and grow into Beloved Community.

**HOW DO I ACCESS THE CURRICULUM?**

When you register you will receive an email with a link and password to the syllabus and curriculum, including links to all the streamed videos and readings in pdf form.

**IS THERE A COST?**

At this time the cost to participate has not been determined. However if there is a cost it will be under \$100 for the entire curriculum, not including the cost of the two core books.