

**MAY WE BE ONE**  
**“Church Engagement in Racial Reconciliation”**  
Rev. Dr. Joanne Solis-Walker, Rev. Dan Walker

**INTRODUCTION:**

Senseless acts of violence have been committed against the African American community for centuries in the history of our nation. When the brutal killing of George Floyd was on public display, it ignited a national outrage and sorrow bringing this narrative of oppression to the forefront. Many of us have felt activated to respond but often left without knowing what to do or where to start. Furthermore, we have wondered what our local church can do to begin addressing the racial injustices in our culture and the systemic issues that contribute so much to the pain of our brothers and sisters in the Black community. We are calling out for change.

Dr. Rev. Joanne Solis-Walker and Rev. Dan Walker address these questions in this workshop, “Church Engagement in Racial Reconciliation.” The Walkers are co-founders of CaminoRoad, a company focused on developing individuals and organizations in the areas of leadership, culture, and praxis. Dr. Joanne Solis-Walker is also an associate Professor of Practical Theology at Northwest Nazarene University.

This workshop challenges our thinking and gives us practical suggestions on where our local church can begin on this journey.

**WATCH VIDEO:** [“Church Engagement In Racial Reconciliation”](#)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. The responses to the survey question “How do you think the church should respond to the African American community now because of this 400 year history?” were from 2019. Do you think they would be different if the question was asked in 2020? Why or why not?

2. Why do you think there is such a big difference between the responses of white and black Christians when asked the two questions: “Do you think the US has a race problem?” and “Do you agree that historically the US has been oppressive to minorities? How does this contribute to the racial challenges in our society in 2020?”
3. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: “Social justice is an important part of the gospel.” Explain your position.
4. What is your response to the statement that the church has been “active and complicit in racial injustice throughout history”? What is the responsibility of the church regarding racial reconciliation in 2020?
5. Dr. Joanna Solis-Walker asserted that “God is calling us as a church to respond.” How are you responding, lamenting, and engaging?
6. Which suggestions on how the church can engage in practical ways could you begin with in your local situation? Put it on the calendar and make a plan to begin.
7. How can you expand your learning so that you are not putting all the weight on friends of Color to educate you? What work can be done on your own? What are you reading? What voices of color are you listening to? If you are white, how can you educate other white people?

### **PUT IT INTO PRACTICE: THE NEXT RIGHT THING**

Perhaps you’ve identified a practical way for you to begin engaging within your own context. Or maybe you’ve identified questions that you still need to ponder. In either case, take a moment to invite the Holy Spirit to give you clarity about your next right step. How are you being invited to act upon what you have heard? Jot down your ideas, and prayerfully consider how you will move into obedience. What conversation needs to happen, and with whom? What book needs to be read? Who do you need to learn from next? Are there any immediate changes you can and need to make in your own sphere of leadership? Are you being led to prayer and fasting as you discern next steps? Whatever it is, write it down, put it on the calendar and make a plan to begin. Trust that the Spirit will continue to guide, empower, and prompt your journey as long as you continue to listen and obey.

## Discussion Session

### **MAY WE BE ONE** **“Church Engagement in Racial Reconciliation”** Rev. Dr. Joanne Solis-Walker, Rev. Dan Walker

**WATCH VIDEO:** [“Church Engagement In Racial Reconciliation”](#), November 20 4P/ 5M/ 6C/ 7E

#### **Opening- Irene** (4 minutes)

- Welcome, Introduce Self & NOW
- Introduce Bill & Herminia themselves!
- Review: Herminia
- Question(All) : Why do you think there is such a big difference between the responses of white and black Christians when asked the question: “Do you think the US has a race problem?”
  - Model dialog possibly bring up themes to be pulled out in discussion questions (yes!)
  - Dialog - All (4 minutes)
- Bill: Share the learning guidelines/ posture

#### **Breakout Dialog Instructions - Bill** (2 minutes)

#### **Breakout Room Conversations** (20 minutes)

Facilitator find someone to report back on group discussion

- How can you expand your learning so that you are not putting all the weight on friends of Color to educate you? What work can be done on your own? What are you reading? What voices of color are you listening to? If you are white, how can you educate other white people?
- What is your response to the statement that the church has been “active and complicit in racial injustice throughout history”? What is the responsibility of the church regarding racial reconciliation in 2020?
- Dr. Joanna Solis-Walker asserted that “God is calling us as a church to respond.” How are you responding, lamenting, and engaging?

### **Large Group Listening- Bill** (20 minutes)

- Group Report Out

### **Sending - Herminia** (2 minutes)

Which suggestions on how the church can engage in practical ways could you begin with in your local situation? Put it on the calendar and make a plan to begin.

- Perhaps you've identified a practical way for you to begin engaging within your own context. Or maybe you've identified questions that you still need to ponder. In either case, take a moment to invite the Holy Spirit to give you clarity about your next right step. Write it down.
  - How are you being invited to act upon what you have heard? Jot down your ideas, and prayerfully consider how you will move into obedience.
  - What conversation needs to happen, and with whom?
  - What book needs to be read?
  - Who do you need to learn from next?
  - Are there any immediate changes you can and need to make in your own sphere of leadership?
  - Are you being led to prayer and fasting as you discern next steps?
- Some Available Resources:
  - NOW - Facebook, Instagram, Newsletter
  - NOW - Multiethnic Conversations - December 5th
  - NOW - Call to Prayer & Fasting, First Friday
  - May We Be One for Pastors - Worldvision
  - PastorBill.ca - Virtual Book Clubs on: Cross and the Lynching Tree, White Fragility, I'm Still Here
  - Bethelbridge.com - Be The Bridge 101, Be The Bridge book, Be The Bridge POC
  - Brownicity.com - "What Lies Between Us" Lucretia Berry
  - Wesleyan Race and Justice site
  - Books:
    - I Bring The Voices of My People - Chanequa Walker Barnes
    - The Color of Compromise - Jemar Tisby
- Whatever it is, write it down, put it on the calendar and make a plan to begin. Trust that the Spirit will continue to guide, empower, and prompt your journey as long as you continue to listen and obey.

### **Prayer- Irene** (8 minutes)

- Benediction - Commissioning