CENTRAL FLORIDA PRESBYTERY STATEMENT ON RACIAL INJUSTICE

"In every age, the church has expressed its witness in words and deeds as the need of the time required." In the wake of the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others who have been unjustly killed, now is that time. As a Matthew 25 Presbytery, and with the conviction to dismantle structural racism, we end our silence.

We, faith leaders and clergy of Central Florida Presbytery,³ confess that we have been slow to face the reality, sin, and evil of racism. We admit that we have neglected to acknowledge the pain of our fellow Presbyterians, Christians, and all whose value has been judged and discounted because of the color of their skin.⁴

Racism is real. Racism is still prevalent in the hearts of many, including those who profess belief in God. Racism is learned behavior because no infant is born with bigotry. There is only one human race, whereby every person, most especially the disenfranchised, yearns for dignity and deserves respect.

We acknowledge that racism is a sin against God and against non-white people. We are all created in the image of God. We confess our failure to fully follow Jesus Christ in loving our neighbors as we love ourselves. We acknowledge that we cannot truly love God, whom we have not seen, if we do not love our brothers and sisters whom we see every day (1 John 4:20). We have failed to take responsibility for our part in the struggle against systemic racism, and we have failed to demonstrate love for our sisters and brothers who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).

As proclaimed in the anti-racism statement made by the Sumter Leaders of Faith: ⁵
Racism is a sin. Racism is a sin against God and against humanity.

Racism tells a lie. Racism tells a lie about God and about what God intends for humanity for it falsely claims that some are less than others.

Racism must be confessed before there can be reconciliation.

Many have been willfully ignorant of and callously indifferent to the sin of racism and the spiritual crisis it has caused. Collectively, we have allowed fear to give way to silence -- continuing and perpetuating racist ideologies, theologies, and practices that have found welcome and continue to fester in our places of worship, communities, homes, and hearts.

Historically, white Christian traditions have been complicit in racism. The formation of our nation, strongly influenced by religious conviction, included an acceptance of racism and slavery. We stand guilty of defending the genocide of indigenous communities, tribes, and people, and of making acceptable slavery, particularly

¹ Office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), "The Confession of 1967 9.02" in *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Part I, Book of Confessions*, (Louisville: Office of the General Assembly, 2016).

² Central Florida Presbytery voted to become a Matthew 25 Presbytery at its December 3, 2019 stated meeting. Citing Matthew 25:31-46 and Jesus' call to actively engage in the world, this Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) initiative calls councils and congregations to help eradicate systemic poverty, dismantle structural racism, and/or build congregational vitality. See how to become a Matthew 25 community at: www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/become-a-matthew-25-church.

³ Central Florida Presbytery is the council of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations encompassing the 10-county region of Central Florida. For more information about the Presbytery, go to: www.cfpresbytery.org.

⁴ Office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), 224th General Assembly, Item 00-29 "On the Church in This Moment in History – Responding to the Sin of Racism and a Call to Action" 2d Plenary, 2020.

⁵ Ecumenical Faith Leaders Task Force, "Sumter Leaders of Faith," (Sumter, SC: New Harmony Presbytery, 2020).

of Black peoples (Luke 11:42-52).⁶ These long-held beliefs have contributed to structural racism in our education, economic, and judicial systems. We have permitted the unfair prosecution and punishment of Black people for unproven crimes or suspicions. We are now confronting this reality.

Today, we declare that Black lives do matter.

We affirm our love and support of our brothers and sisters in law enforcement. However, police brutality is never acceptable, and we must hold accountable those who commit such acts.

The late Honorable Representative John Lewis said, "If you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have a moral obligation to do something about it." We have an obligation to make "good trouble."

Scripture proclaims that the Lord requires us to "do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8).

Therefore, Central Florida Presbytery commits to act for racial justice, equality, and respect for all people. We commit to demonstrate this within our communities, through our prayers, policies, and practices.

⁶ Jesus spoke woe to his contemporaries, saying they were implicated in wrongs committed by their ancestors.

CENTRAL FLORIDA PRESBYTERY STATEMENT ON RACIAL INJUSTICE APPENDIX A

RECOMMENDED ACTION PLAN

We, a diverse and complex community of believers acknowledge that in order to achieve racial reconciliation we must take the following actions:

1. PRAY with an open mind and heart, and respond to God's leading.

We will undertake this discipline individually and collectively as a church.

2. LEARN:

- sharing the history, dynamics, and consequences of racism as power;
- listening empathetically to the hurts and hopes of people of color;
- For the majority white members of the church we are especially responsible to hear the lived realities and stories of people of color without blaming, deflecting, or changing the subject. We also strive to recognize the wounding of our soul in the historic role of oppressor and how this continues to affect our view of society, culture, and racial tensions.
- being culturally humble by respecting those who are marginalized and when or how they peacefully protest their mistreatment;
- recognizing implicit bias (attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions and decisions in an unconscious manner) and the resulting habit of ingrained prejudice; and
- avoiding racially charged words and dehumanizing phrases.

3. REPENT and ATONE:

- for our personal acts of racism or colorism;
- We acknowledge that humans can veil racist or prejudiced thoughts and behaviors, even from ourselves;
- for our failure to hear the cries of our marginalized kindred;
- for the power imbalance and the undercurrent of racism that limits access to leadership and control
 of faith institutions;
- for valuing law and order and property above the lives of people of color; and
- for our silence in the face of racial injustice.

4. AFFIRM:

- inclusion in leadership in the Central Florida Presbytery and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) while acknowledging that more work is necessary;
- that we sin before God and against humanity when we refer to any person as "other" or as "them";
- our accountability to all people of color;
- the need to reform our racialized criminal justice system;
- the importance and value of a truth and reconciliation process for our faith traditions and nation;
- that faithfulness demands working for restitution and restorative justice from our faith institutions and our nation for BIPOC communities.

"Repairing what's broken is a distinctly biblical concept, which is why as people of faith we should be leading the way into redemption, restoration, and reconciliation."

⁷ LaTasha Morrison, Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation. 2019, WaterBrook, Crown Publishing Group. p.154

5. ACT:

- by bringing our prophetic voices into the public arena;
- by leading our congregations to confront racism;
- by calling for the appropriate discipline, up to and including, termination and prosecution, of law enforcement officers who commit racist or brutal acts;
- by transforming our system of policing, criminal justice, immigration, and mass incarceration systems that are decimating BIPOC communities;
- by balancing the inequities inflicted on non-white communities from health care to employment, from education to wealth, from the criminal justice system to housing;
- by practicing Christ's love and acceptance of all people and all faiths by leading with love;
 - We can never expect others to believe what we believe if we do not extend love to everyone.
- by taking responsibility for our part in the struggle for racial justice in all arenas of life.
- by making amends for our silence by speaking truth with humility and listening with deeper conviction to those we have offended.

As a Presbytery, we will:

- empower the Mission Development Committee to develop practices and policies that address racism;
- encourage all committees, ministries, members and congregations to engage in efforts to end racial injustice;
- require Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Certified Christian Educators, Commissioned Pastors and presbytery staff to engage in anti-racism training on an ongoing basis;
- urge the leadership, staff and members of the presbytery's congregations to participate in the same recurring anti-racism training events;
- provide opportunities for all members of the presbytery and our congregations to participate in educational events that promote understanding and discussion about racism and our racial history;
- recommend that all individuals learn about racism (see the attached resource list);
- promote storytelling events and intercultural experiences that help us understand our collective narrative as people of faith and the ways we are transformed by the Gospel and by intentional conversations with our racially diverse siblings;
- communicate the presbytery's awakened convictions, repentance, and commitment to a new awareness through all available outlets;
- commit to be active and to publicly proclaim our new understandings as we express our faith through civic engagement.8

⁸ Historically this has included works for the abolitions of slavery, marches for civil rights, non-violent protest, sit-ins, communicating with elected officials, etc.

APPENDIX B

GLOSSARY TERMS

Term	Definition / Explanation
Bigotry	Obstinate or intolerant devotion to one's own opinions and prejudices ⁹
BIPOC	An acronym for 'Black, Indigenous, People of Color,' it is meant to unite all people
DIFOC	of color in the work for liberation while intentionally acknowledging that not all
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Black	people of color face the same levels of injustice."10
DIACK	According to the Columbia Journalism Review, Black reflects a shared sense of
	identity and community for many people. Capitalizing "Black" follows the practice
	established for other groups (African-American, Asian, Hispanic, etc.) and extends
Disabilities Matter	transnationally to Caribbean and Central/South American Black persons.11
Black Lives Matter	"Black Lives Matter: A now-mainstream declaration that "Black lives matter, too,"
	this affirmation is independent of the socio-political Black Lives Matter Foundation,
	Inc. The phrase was coined in a 2013 social media post by activist Alicia Garza
	following the acquittal of Floridian George Zimmerman, who had been charged with
	the murder of an unarmed Black teen named Trayvon Martin. The hashtag gained
	traction the following year after the killing of two other unarmed Black men by police.
	Advocates confirm the phrase was never intended to imply that <i>only</i> Black lives
	matter.
	"Coving upon in coolly that "Dlock Lives Matter" in many magnet that all lives do
	"Saying unequivocally that "Black Lives Matter" in no way means that all lives do
	not matter. It is rather an acknowledgement that many lives – specifically black lives
Civia angagamant	– are systemically devalued." ¹²
Civic engagement	A process in which people take action to address issues of public concern.
	This has included work for the abolition of slavery, marches for civil rights, non-
	violent protest, sit-ins, communicating with elected officials, social media
Colorioro /oloo	engagement, etc.
Colorism (also known as	Prejudice or discrimination especially within a racial or ethnic group favoring people
known as Shadeism)	with lighter skin over those with darker skin. 13 Not to be confused with racism,
Onacionij	colorism is a form of prejudice or discrimination in which people who are usually
	members of the same race are treated differently based on the social implications
Cuesa etha	which come with the cultural meanings which are attached to skin color.
Empathy	The capacity to understand or feel what another person is experiencing, that is, the
lumiliait bios	capacity to place oneself in another's position. 14
Implicit bias	Attitudes or stereotypes which unconsciously affect human understanding, social
Deemle of Calar	behavior, actions, and decisions, making an individual's actions difficult to control. 15
People of Color	Any person who is not considered white or of European heritage in the United
(POC)	States. Persons of Color include Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and Asian persons
	among others. The term emphasizes common experiences of systemic racism.

⁹ https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bigotry

https://www.cjr.org/analysis/capital-b-black-styleguide.php

¹² https://www.pcusa.org/weekofaction/ 13 https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/colorism

¹⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empathy

Term	Definition / Explanation
Prejudice	Preconceived judgment or an adverse opinion or leaning formed without just grounds or before sufficient knowledge; an irrational attitude of hostility directed against an individual, a group, a race, or their supposed characteristics" ¹⁶
Racial Justice	The systematic fair treatment of people of all races, resulting in equitable opportunities and outcomes for all. ¹⁷
Racism	Prejudice and or bigotry, coupled with institutional, generational, or cultural power. It can be expressed individually, institutionally, systemically, or structurally. ¹⁸
Structural Racism	Describes a system in which public policies, institutional practices, cultural representations, and other norms work in various, often reinforcing ways to perpetuate racial group inequity. ¹⁹
Systemic Racism	Historic and continuing discrimination against Persons of Color within systems (including education, labor, residential, health, and criminal justice systems). ²⁰
White	According to the Columbia Journalism Review, capitalizing the word "white" risks following the lead of white supremacists. ²¹
White Fragility	"The tendency among members of the dominant white cultural group to have a defensive, wounded, angry, or dismissive response to evidence of racism." ²²
White Privilege	"The unearned, mostly unacknowledged, social advantage white people have over other racial groups simply because they are white."23

¹⁶ https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prejudice
17 http://www.nea.org/racialsocialjustice
18 https://debbyirving.com/are-prejudice-bigotry-and-racism-the-same-thing/
19 https://www.aspeninstitute.org/blog-posts/structural-racism-definition/
20 https://tww.cjr.org/s851855/systemic-racism-america/
21 https://www.cjr.org/analysis/capital-b-black-stylequide.php
22 https://www.dictionary.com/browse/white-fragility
23 https://www.dictionary.com/e/pop-culture/white-privilege/

CLARIFYING STATEMENTS

In the polarized climate of 2020, many terms have become politically charged. Therefore, we believe it is important to clarify the original definition and stated intent of the terms listed below.

Black Lives Matter

Represents a political and social movement originating among African Americans, emphasizing basic human rights and racial equality for Black people and campaigning against various forms of racism.²⁴ It is a decentralized movement advocating for non-violent civil disobedience in protest against incidents of police brutality and all racially motivated violence against Black people. ²⁵

- "#BlackLivesMatter What we believe (from BlackLivesMatter Foundation):
 - "We acknowledge, respect, and celebrate differences and commonalities.
 - We work vigorously for freedom and justice for Black people and, by extension, all people.
 - We intentionally build and nurture a beloved community that is bonded together through a beautiful struggle that is restorative, not depleting.
 - We are unapologetically Black in our positioning. In affirming that Black Lives Matter, we need not qualify our position. To love and desire freedom and justice for ourselves is a prerequisite for wanting the same for others.
 - We see ourselves as part of the global Black family, and we are aware of the different ways we are impacted or privileged as Black people who exist in different parts of the world.
 - We are guided by the fact that all Black lives matter, regardless of actual or perceived sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, economic status, ability, disability, religious beliefs or disbeliefs, immigration status, or location.
 - We make space for transgender brothers and sisters to participate and lead.
 - We are self-reflexive and do the work required to dismantle cisgender privilege and uplift Black trans
 folk, especially Black trans women who continue to be disproportionately impacted by transantagonistic violence.
 - We build a space that affirms Black women and is free from sexism, misogyny, and environments in which men are centered.
 - We practice empathy. We engage comrades with the intent to learn about and connect with their contexts.
 - We make our spaces family-friendly and enable parents to fully participate with their children. We dismantle the patriarchal practice that requires mothers to work "double shifts" so that they can mother in private even as they participate in public justice work.
 - We disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and "villages" that collectively care for one another, especially our children, to the degree that mothers, parents, and children are comfortable.
 - We foster a queer-affirming network. When we gather, we do so with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking, or rather, the belief that all in the world are heterosexual (unless s/he or they disclose otherwise).
 - We cultivate an intergenerational and communal network free from ageism. We believe that all people, regardless of age, show up with the capacity to lead and learn.
 - We embody and practice justice, liberation, and peace in our engagements with one another."

²⁴ https://www.dictionary.com/browse/black-lives-matter?s=t

²⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Lives_Matter

²⁶ https://blacklivesmatter.com/what-we-believe/

Implicit bias

"A few key characteristics of implicit biases

- Implicit biases are pervasive. Everyone possesses them, even people with avowed commitments to impartiality such as judges.
- Implicit and explicit biases are related but distinct mental constructs. They are not mutually exclusive and may even reinforce each other.
- The implicit associations we hold do not necessarily align with our declared beliefs or even reflect stances we would explicitly endorse.
- We generally tend to hold implicit biases that favor our own ingroup, though research has shown that we can still hold implicit biases against our ingroup.
- Implicit biases are malleable. Our brains are incredibly complex, and the implicit associations that we have formed can be gradually unlearned through a variety of debiasing techniques."²⁷

Racism

Prejudice is when a person negatively pre-judges another person or group without getting to know the beliefs, thoughts, and feelings behind their words and actions. A person of any racial group can be prejudiced towards a person of any other racial group. There is no power dynamic involved."

Bigotry is stronger than prejudice, a more severe mindset and often accompanied by discriminatory behavior. It's arrogant and mean-spirited, but requires neither systems nor power to engage in.

Racism is the system that allows the racial group that's already in power to retain power. Since arriving on U.S. soil white people have used their power to create preferential access to survival rights and resources (housing, education, jobs, voting, citizenship, food, health, legal protection, etc.) for white people while simultaneously impeding people of color's access to these same rights and resources. Though "reverse racism" is a term sometimes heard, it has never existed in America. White people are the only racial group to have ever established and retained power in the United States.

Institutional Racism

When someone is treated unfairly because of their race that has become part of the normal behavior of people within an organization.²⁸

Structural Racism

Often used synonymously with Systemic Racism, Structural Racism describes a system in which public policies, institutional practices, cultural representations, and other norms work in various, often reinforcing ways to perpetuate racial group inequity. It identifies dimensions of our history and culture that have allowed privileges associated with "whiteness" and disadvantages associated with "color" to endure and adapt over time. Structural racism is not something that a few people or institutions choose to practice. Instead it has been a feature of the social, economic and political systems in which we all exist.²⁹

Systemic Racism

Often-unconscious and always insidious, systemic racism traces roots directly to slavery and its offspring of Jim Crow laws and mass incarceration. For example:

"That's the ugly history most Americans know and acknowledge. But systemic racism also found its way, more insidiously, into the institutions many Americans revere and seek to safe-

²² http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/research/understanding-implicit-bias/

 $^{{}^{28}\,}https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/institutionalized-racism$

²⁹ https://www.aspeninstitute.org/blog-posts/structural-racism-definition/

guard. Established in the 1930s, Social Security helped ensure a stable old age for most Americans, but it initially excluded domestic and agricultural workers, leaving behind two-thirds of black Americans. Federal mortgage lending programs helped white Americans buy homes after World War II, but black Americans suffered from a shameful catch-22. Federal policy said that the very presence of a black resident in a neighborhood reduced the value of the homes there, effectively prohibiting African-American residents from borrowing money to buy a home. And sentencing laws of the past several decades meant that poor black Americans were thrown in prison for decades-long terms for consuming one type of cocaine while their wealthier white counterparts got a slap on the wrist for consuming another.³⁰

Reparations

The act of making of amends, offering expiation, or giving satisfaction for a wrong or injury.³¹

"Reparations for slavery is the application of the concept of reparations to victims of slavery and/or their descendants. There are concepts for reparations in legal philosophy and reparations in transitional justice. Throughout history, reparations for slavery have been both given by legal ruling in court and/or given voluntarily (without court rulings) by individuals and institutions³². Reparations can take numerous forms, including: individual monetary payments, settlements, scholarships, waiving of fees, and systemic initiatives to offset injustices, land-based compensation related to independence, apologies and acknowledgements of the injustices,³³ token measures, such as naming a building after someone, or the removal of monuments and renaming of streets that honor slave owners and defenders of slavery.^{34/35}

There are many instances of reparations for slavery relating to the Atlantic slave trade dating back to the at least 1783 in North America³⁶, with a growing list of modern day examples of Reparations for slavery in the United States in 2020 as the call for reparations in the US has been bolstered by protests around police brutality and other cases of systemic racism in the US.³⁷ Recently in the US, the call for reparations for racism has been made alongside calls for reparations for slavery.^{38/39}

Despite many calls for reparations, examples of international reparations for slavery consist of recognition of the injustice of slavery and apologies for involvement but no material compensation.^{40/41**42}

"This to me is the deepest significance of reparations. People who think this is just a matter of giving black things vastly underestimate the challenge. Reparations may seem impractical. Living without history, I suspect will - in the long term prove to be suicidal."⁴³

31 https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/reparation

³⁰ Ibid.

³º Davis, Allen (May 11, 2020). "An Historical Timeline of Reparations Payments Made From 1783 through 2020 by the United States Government, States, Cities, Religious Institutions, Colleges and Universities, and Corporations". University of Massachusetts Amherst. Retrieved July 12, 2020.

³³ Davis, Allen (May 11, 2020). "An Historical Timeline of Reparations Payments Made From 1783 through 2020 by the United States Government, States, Cities, Religious Institutions, Colleges and Universities, and Corporations". University of Massachusetts Amherst. Retrieved July 12, 2020.

³⁴ "Black Asheville Demands - Reparations Section". June 26, 2020. Retrieved July 12, 2020.

³⁵ Kepley-Steward, Kristy; Santostasi, Stephanie (July 10, 2020). "Confederate monuments in downtown Asheville removed or covered". Retrieved July 12, 2020.

³⁶ Davis, Allen (May 11, 2020). "An Historical Timeline of Reparations Payments Made From 1783 through 2020 by the United States Government, States, Cities, Religious Institutions, Colleges and Universities, and Corporations". University of Massachusetts Amherst. Retrieved July 12, 2020.

³⁷ "Calls for reparations are growing louder. How is the US responding?" June 20, 2020. Retrieved July 20, 2020. Several states, localities and private institutions are beginning to grapple with issue, advancing legislation or convening taskforces to develop proposals for reparations.

³⁸ Cashin, Sheryll (June 21, 2019). "Reparations for slavery aren't enough. Official racism lasted much longer".

^{39 &}quot;Black Asheville Demands - Reparations Section". June 26, 2020. Retrieved July 12, 2020.

⁴⁰ Howard-Hassman, Rhoda (2004). "Reparations to Africa and the Group of Eminent Persons". Cahier d'Etudes africaines. Retrieved July 20, 2020. a" French law of 2001 that recognizes the trans-Atlantic slave trade as a crime against humanity, and the admission by the Belgians in 2002 of their role in the murder of Patrice Lumumba, first President of independent Congo"

^{41 &}quot;Blair 'sorrow' over slave trade". BBC News, 27 November 2006. Accessed 15 March 2007.

⁴² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reparations_for_slavery

 $^{^{\}rm 43}$ Coates, Ta-Nehisi. The Case for Reparations. The Atlantic, June 2013

"It's important to remember that in our practice of restorative justice, reparation is not punitive. Reparation is not about punishing anyone. It's not about paying a fine for a wrong committed or assuaging a guilty conscience. Instead, reparation acknowledges that through historical injustice, some communities were denied (or had deliberately stolen from them) opportunities, possessions, property, wealth, and safety so that other communities could obtain more of those things. Reparation is about repaying or returning those things so as to restore equity."⁴⁴

Social Justice

Social justice refers to justice in the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society. 45

"Social justice is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities. Social workers aim to open the doors of access and opportunity for everyone, particularly those in greatest need."46

"Social justice is a concept of fair and just relations between the individual and society, as measured by the distribution of wealth, opportunities for personal activity, and social privileges. In Western as well as in older Asian cultures, the concept of social justice has often referred to the process of ensuring that individuals fulfill their societal roles and receive what was their due from society. In the current global grassroots movements for social justice, the emphasis has been on the breaking of barriers for social mobility, the creation of safety nets and economic justice.

Social justice assigns rights and duties in the institutions of society, which enables people to receive the basic benefits and burdens of cooperation. The relevant institutions often include taxation, social insurance, public health, public school, public services, labor law and regulation of markets, to ensure fair distribution of wealth, and equal opportunity."⁴⁷

White Privilege

White privilege refers to the unquestioned and unearned set of advantages, entitlements, benefits and choices bestowed on people solely because they are white. Generally white people who experience such privilege do so without being conscious of it.⁴⁸ These differences are maintained in part by denying that these advantages and disadvantages exist at the structural, institutional, cultural, interpersonal and individual levels and by refusing to redress them or eliminate the systems, policies, practices, cultural norms and other behaviors and assumptions that maintain them.⁴⁹

Structural White Privilege: A system of white domination that creates and maintains belief systems that make current racial advantages and disadvantages seem normal. The system includes powerful incentives for maintaining white privilege and its consequences, and powerful negative consequences for trying to interrupt white privilege or reduce its consequences in meaningful ways. The system includes internal and external manifestations at the individual, interpersonal, cultural and institutional levels.

⁴⁴ LaTasha Morrison, Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation. 2019, WaterBrook, Crown Publishing Group. p.158

⁴⁵ https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/social_justice

⁴⁶ https://www.sdfoundation.org/news-events/sdf-news/what-is-social-justice/

⁴⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_justice

⁴⁸ White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondences Through Work in Women Studies. Peggy McIntosh. 1988.

⁴⁹ Transforming White Privilege: A 21st Century Leadership Capacity, CAPD, MP Associates, World Trust Educational Services, 2012.

The accumulated and interrelated advantages and disadvantages of white privilege that are reflected in racial/ethnic inequities in life-expectancy and other health outcomes, income and wealth and other outcomes, in part through different access to opportunities and resources.

Interpersonal White Privilege: Behavior between people that consciously or unconsciously reflects white superiority or entitlement.

Cultural White Privilege: A set of dominant cultural assumptions about what is good, normal or appropriate that reflects Western European white world views and dismisses or demonizes other world views.

Institutional White Privilege: Policies, practices and behaviors of institutions -- such as schools, banks, non-profits or the Supreme Court -- that have the effect of maintaining or increasing accumulated advantages for those groups currently defined as white, and maintaining or increasing disadvantages for those racial or ethnic groups not defined as white. The ability of institutions to survive and thrive even when their policies, practices and behaviors maintain, expand or fail to redress accumulated disadvantages and/or inequitable outcomes for people of color.⁵⁰

White privilege (or white skin privilege) is the societal privilege that benefits white people over non-white people in some societies, particularly if they are otherwise under the same social, political, or economic circumstances.⁵¹ With roots in European colonialism,⁵² the Atlantic slave trade, and the growth of the Second British Empire after 1783, white privilege has developed⁵³ in circumstances that have broadly sought to protect white racial privileges,⁵⁴ various national citizenships and other rights or special benefits.⁵⁵/⁵⁶⁷⁵⁷

White Supremacy

White supremacy is the idea (ideology) that white people and the ideas, thoughts, beliefs, and actions of white people are superior to People of Color and their ideas, thoughts, beliefs, and actions. While most people associate white supremacy with extremist groups like the Ku Klux Klan and the neo-Nazis, white supremacy is ever present in our institutional and cultural assumptions that assign value, morality, goodness, and humanity to the white group while casting people and communities of color as worthless (worth less), immoral, bad, and inhuman and "undeserving." Drawing from critical race theory, the term "white supremacy" also refers to a political or socio-economic system where white people enjoy structural advantage and rights that other racial and ethnic groups do not, both at a collective and an individual level.⁵⁸

White Supremacy Culture

⁵³ Bischoff, Eva; Elisabeth Engel (2013). Colonialism and Beyond: Race and Migration from a Postcolonial Perspective. LIT Verlag. p. 33. ISBN 978-3643902610. Whiteness scholars mostly concentrate on the idea of power as a white economic and political privilege, which is assumed to have been formed over centuries and to still be unconsciously perpetuated by individuals.

⁵⁰ Transforming White Privilege: A 21st Century Leadership Capacity, CAPD, MP Associates, World Trust Educational Services, 2012.

⁵¹ Stephen, James (1824). The Slavery of the British West India Colonies Delineated. Cambridge University Press. p. 179.

⁵² Ihid

Hintzen, Percy C. (2003). Henke, Holger; Fred Reno (eds.). Modern Political Culture in the Caribbean. University Press of the West Indies. p. 396. ISBN 978-9766401351. In making their claims to white elite status, the elite of colonial Africa and its colonized diaspora have managed to reproduce, in postcolonial political economy, the very forms of domination that existed under colonialism. These forms are rooted in racial exclusivity and racial privilege.
 Henry, Frances; Carol Tator (2006). Racial Profiling in Canada: Challenging the Myth of 'a Few Bad Apples'. University of Toronto Press. p. 22. ISBN 978-0802087140. Whiteness studies analyse the link between white skin and the position of privilege operating in most societies, including those which have been subjected to European colonialism.

⁵⁶ Talley, Clarence R. (2017). Theresa Rajack-Talley, Derrick R. Brooms (eds.). Living Racism: Through the Barrel of the Book. Lexington Books. p. 17. ISBN 978-1498544313. Stokely Carmichael and Charles V. Hamilton in their book, Black Power: The Politics of Liberation in America, argue that the internal colonialism of the Black population occurs as the purposeful relegation of the Black population to inferior political and economic status both during and subsequent to slavery. From this perspective, white privilege emerges in American society because of the relations of colonialism and exploitation.

⁵⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_privilege

⁵⁸ Dismantling Racism Works web workbook, https://www.dismantlingracism.org/racism-defined.html

White Supremacy Culture refers to the dominant, unquestioned standards of behavior and ways of functioning embodied by the vast majority of institutions in the United States. These standards may be seen as mainstream, dominant cultural practices; they have evolved from the United States' history of white supremacy. Because it is so normalized it can be hard to see, which only adds to its powerful hold. In many ways, it is indistinguishable from what we might call U.S. culture or norms – a focus on individuals over groups, for example, or an emphasis on the written word as a form of professional communication. But it operates in even more subtle ways, by actually defining what "normal" is – and likewise, what "professional," "effective," or even "good" is. In turn, white culture also defines what is not good, "at risk," or "unsustainable." White culture values some ways – ways that are more familiar and come more naturally to those from a white, western tradition – of thinking, behaving, deciding, and knowing, while devaluing or rendering invisible other ways. And it does this without ever having to explicitly say so.⁵⁹

White supremacy culture is an artificial, historically constructed culture which expresses, justifies and binds together the United States white supremacy system. It is the glue that binds together white-controlled institutions into systems and white-controlled systems into the global white supremacy system.⁶⁰

⁵⁹ Paying Attention to White Culture and Privilege: A Missing Link to Advancing Racial Equity, by Gita GulatiPartee and Maggie Potapchuk, The Foundation Review, Vol. 6: Issue 1 (2014).

⁶⁰ Challenging White Supremacy Workshop, Sharon Martinas Fourth Revision. 1995.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

Disclaimer: Every view or opinion expressed in the referenced resource does not necessarily constitute agreement or imply endorsement.

Articles and Online Resources

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/30/opinion/john-lewis-civil-rights-america.html

https://www.yahoo.com/huffpost/white-supremacy-christianity-robert-jones-160000229.html

https://www.vahoo.com/news/theological-roots-white-supremacy-120007153.html

Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (PDF) – 6 pp.

AORTA (Anti-Oppression Resource and Training Alliance) resource list https://aorta.coop/resources/

Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University https://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/

Implicit Bias Assessments and Cleanses

Implicit Associations Test https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/featuredtask.html
The Complicity Cleanse https://www.complicitycleanse.com/about-face

Dismantling Racism: A Workbook for Social Change

Groups http://www.resourcesharingproject.org/dismantling-racism-resource-book-social-change-groups

Podcast for White Lies https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510343/white-lies

Podcast on Policing, Throughline on NPR https://www.npr.org/2020/06/03/869046127/american-police

Books

Michelle Alexander, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness. 336 pp. 2012, The New Press. **ISBN-13:** 978-1595586438

James Baldwin, Go Tell It On The Mountain. 272 pp. 2013, reprint edition, Vintage Books. **ISBN-13:** 978-0345806543

Austin Channing Brown, I'm Still Here, Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness. 192 pp. 2018, Convergent Books. **ISBN-13:** 978-1524760854

Dee Brown, Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West. 512 pp. Picador, 1st edition, ISBN-13: 978-0805086843

Ta-Nehisi Coates, Between the World and Me, 176 pp. 2015, One World. ISBN-13: 978-0812993547

Robin Diangelo, White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism. 192 pp. 2018, Beacon Press. **ISBN-13**: 978-0807047415

- Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States. 312 pp. Beacon Press, 2015, reprint edition. **ISBN-13:** 978-0807057834
- Jennifer Eberhardt, Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do. 368 pp. 2020, reprint edition, Penguin Press. **ISBN-13**: 978-0735224957
- Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man. 581 pp. 1995, Vintage Books. ISBN-13: 978-0679732761
- Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow. 320 pp. 2020, Penguin Press. **ISBN-13**: 978-0525559559
- Alex Haley, The Autobiography of Malcolm X: As Told to Alex Haley. 460 pp. 1992, reissue edition, Ballentine Books. **ISBN-13:** 978-9990065169
- Alex Haley, Roots: The Saga of an American Family. 912 pp. 2016, Media tie-in edition, Da Capo Press. **ISBN-13:** 978-0306824852
- Carolyn B. Helsel, Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism. 128 pp. 2018, Chalice Press 2018, **ISBN-13**: 978-0827200722
- Daniel Hill, White Awake: An honest look at what it means to be white. 192 pp. 2017, IVP Press. **ISBN-13**: 978-0830843930
- Debby Irving, Waking Up White: and Finding Myself in the Story of Race. 288 pp. 2014, Elephant Room Press.

ISBN-13: 978-0991331307

- Ibram X. Kendi, How to Be An Antiracist, pp.238, 2019, One World, ISBN-13: 978-0-5255-0928-8
- Robert P. Jones, White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity, pp. 236 2020, Simon & Schuster, ISBN-13: 978-1-9821-2286-7
- LaTasha Morrison, Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation. 256pp. 2019, WaterBrook, Crown Publishing Group. **ISBN-13:** 9780525652892
- Bruce Reyes-Chow, But I Don't See You as Asian: Curating Conversations about Race. 242 pp. 2013, BRC Publications. ISBN-13: 978-0989498104
- Andrea J. Ritchie, Invisible No More: Police Violence Against Black Women and Women of Color. 362 pp. 2017, Beacon Press. **ISBN-13**: 978-080708898-2
- Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. 368 pp. 2015, Spiegel & Grau. **ISBN-13:** 978-0812984965
- Layla Saad, Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor, 256 pp. 2020, Sourcebooks. **ISBN-13:** 978-1728209807

Jemar Tisby, The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism. 256 pp. 2020, Zondervan. **ISBN-13:** 978-0310113607

David Truer, The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present. 528 pp. 2019, Riverhead Books, reprint edition. **ISBN-13**: 978-0399573194

Videos

Robin Diangelo, "Vital Conversations: An Interactive Video Series on Today's Realities of Race and Racism," produced by General Commission on Religion and Race for the United Methodist Church, published February 21, 2017. 22 minutes.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dwlx3KQer54

13th, directed by Ava Duvernay. Kandoo Films, 2016. Netflix, streaming video. (1 hr., 40 min)

Debby Irving, "Finding Myself in the Story of Race," produced by TEDx Fenway, published July 20, 2015. 15 minutes. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oD5Ox5XNEpg

Jane Elliott – Blue-eyed/brown-eyed experiment, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLAi78hluFc

https://churchleaders.com/pastors/videos-for-pastors/377389-phil-vischers-17-minute-history-lesson-is-worth-every-second.html?fbclid=lwAR3N7KFWjhET5hK3w8WoL5U-jfClvVOpXWExfj_yKaTGvTPqtaGnFoleS0

The Veggie Tales Theme Remix You Need to Drop Everything to Watch - https://youtu.be/crg0WAIBdTo

Special Committee on Racism, Truth and Reconciliation Video on Reparations https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=871788259897309&ref=watch_permalink

Racism, Law Enforcement and The Church https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=Yv7_sTeafbc

Documentary - Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls at School by Monique W. Morris https://pushoutfilm.com/

Presbytery & Denominational Resources

http://www.cfpresbytery.org/anti-racism.html

https://www.pcusa.org/racial-justice-resources/

FacingRacism.Org - PCUSA's Antiracism statement https://facing-racism.pcusa.org/

Facing Racism: A Vision of the Intercultural Community - approved by the 222nd General Assembly (2016)

Church wide policy: https://facing-racism-pcusa.org/site media/media/uploads/facing racism/resources/facing-racism-policy.pdf

Study Guide: https://facing-racism.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/facing_racism/facing-racism-study-guide.pdf

"Trouble the Water: Conversations to Disrupt Racism and Dominance" is a documentary series resource produced by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for communities and congregations to facilitate conversation and engagement around the issues of race and racism. As we struggle as a nation with these deep systemic and structural issues on a daily basis, we hope this series can be a resource to listen to one another, have difficult but honest conversations and collectively work together to disrupt systemic racism.

PCUSA Special Committee on Racism, Truth & Reconciliation Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/PCUSASpecialCommitteeRaceTruthReconciliation

Reparations Video

https://www.facebook.com/PCUSASpecialCommitteeRaceTruthReconciliation/videos/871788259897309

PC(USA)—Hispanic/Latino-a Intercultural Congregational Support:

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/racial-equity-womens-intercultural-ministries/hispaniclatino-a-intercultural-congregational-support

PC(USA)—Hispanic/Latinx National Presbyterian Caucus: www.facebook.com/HispanicLatinoPCUSA

PC(USA)—Office of Immigration Issues: www.oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration

PC(USA)—Presbyterian Publishing Corp. (Spanish Language): www.pcusastore.com

CONFESSIONS ON RACISM AND RECONCILIATION

CONFESSION OF 1967

4. RECONCILIATION IN SOCIETY

9.43

In each time and place there are particular problems and crises through which God calls the church to act. The church, guided by the Spirit, humbled by its own complicity and instructed by all attainable knowledge, seeks to discern the will of God and learn how to obey in these concrete situations. The following are particularly urgent at the present time.⁶¹

9.44

a. God has created the peoples of the earth to be one universal family. In his reconciling love he overcomes the barriers between brothers and breaks down every form of discrimination based on racial or ethnic difference, real or imaginary. The church is called to bring all men to receive and uphold one another as persons in all relationships of life: in employment, housing, education, leisure, marriage, family, church, and the exercise of political rights. Therefore the church labors for the abolition of all racial discrimination and ministers to those injured by it. Congregations, individuals, or groups of Christians who exclude, dominate, or patronize their fellowmen, however subtly, resist the Spirit of God and bring contempt on the faith which they profess.⁶²

CONFESSION OF BELHAR

⁶¹ Book of Confessions, Confession of 1967, 9.43, Presbyterian Church (USA).

⁶² Book of Confessions, Confession of 1967, 9.44, Presbyterian Church (USA).

10.5 We believe

- that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;
- that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells;
- that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also
 of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable
 the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the
 world:
- that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its beneficial work obstructed when it is
 proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced separation of
 people on a racial basis promotes and perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity;
- that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine.⁶³

10.6

Therefore, we reject any doctrine which, in such a situation sanctions in the name of the gospel or of the will of God the forced separation of people on the grounds of race and color and thereby in advance obstructs and weakens the ministry and experience of reconciliation in Christ.

10.7

In the Belhar Confession, "we believe that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged; that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly; that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering; that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right; that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream; that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others."

⁶³ Book of Confessions, Belhar Confession, 10.7, Presbyterian Church (USA).

⁶⁴ Book of Confessions, Belhar Confession, 10.7, Presbyterian Church (USA).

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Michelle Alexander, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness. 336 pp. 2012, The New Press. **ISBN-13:** 978-1595586438

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The 1619 Project https://nyti.ms/2Hjvu0L

13th, directed by Ava Duvernay. Kandoo Films, 2016. Netflix, streaming video. (1 hr., 40 min)

The National Museum of African American History and Culture https://www.si.edu/museums/african-american-museum

The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Incarceration https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/museum

The National Memorial for Peace and Justice https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/

The National Civil Rights Museum https://www.civilrightsmuseum.org

ASIAN RESOURCES

Bruce Reyes-Chow, But I Don't See You as Asian: Curating Conversations about Race. 242 pp. 2013, BRC Publications. ISBN-13: 978-0989498104

https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2020/07/01/many-black-and-asian-americans-say-they-have-experienced-discrimination-amid-the-covid-19-outbreak/

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https://civilrights.org/edfund/resource/stop-pointing-asian-americans-downplay-racism-universities/

https://time.com/5858649/racism-coronavirus/

https://www.forefrontnyc.com/blog/2020/4/6/anti-racism-in-chinatowns-across-the-us?gclid=CjwKCAjw1ej5BRBhEiwAfHyh1K14yugy2vElAeR7T00KkTiiRJsK5KFRak2RlOl7lOyjCrs7JM444hoCpqUQAvD_BwE

https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52714804

https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/05/12/covid-19-fueling-anti-asian-racism-and-xenophobia-worldwide

https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/07/30/us-leaders-should-combat-anti-asian-racism-xenophobia

https://www.nvtimes.com/2020/06/24/us/asian-american-racism-coronavirus-kelly-vang.html

HISPANIC/LATINX ADVOCACY: Online Resources

Association for Hispanic Theological Education (AETH): www.aeth.org

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry: www.beth-el.org

Cesar E. Chavez Foundation: www.chavezfoundation.org

Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC): www.cplc.org

Committee for Hispanic Families and Children (CHFC): www.chcfinc.org

Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI): www.chci.org

Esperanza College of Eastern University: www.esperanza.eastern.edu

Fuentes Strategies: <u>www.fuentesstrategies.com</u>

Grassroots Leadership: www.grassrootsleadership.org

Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE): www.latinas.org

Hispanic Alliance for Career Advancement (HACE): www.haceonline.org

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU): www.hacu.net

Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (HACR): www.hacr.org

Hispanic Federation: www.hispanicfederation.org

Hispanic Heritage Foundation: www.hispanicheritage.org

Hispanic Institute: www.thehispanicinstitute.net

Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA): www.hnba.com

Hispanic Office for Local Assistance (HOLA): www.cityoforlando.net/hola

Hispanic Scholarship Fund: www.hsf.net

Latino Leadership: www.latino-leadership.org

Latino Victory: <u>www.latinovictory.us</u>

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC): www.lulac.org

MANA: A National Latina Organization: www.hermana.org

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund: www.maldef.org

National Alliance for Hispanic Health: www.healthyamericas.org

National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB): www.nalcab.org

National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO): www.naleo.org

National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA): www.nhcoa.org

National Hispanic Institute (NHI): www.nationalhispanicinstitute.org

National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA): www.nhmamd.org

National Institute for Latino Policy (NiLP): www.facebook.com/National-Institute-for-Latino-Policy-NiLP-167903163226/

PC(USA)—Hispanic/Latino-a Intercultural Congregational Support: www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/racial-equity-womens-intercultural-ministries/hispaniclatino-a-

<u>www.presbytenanmission.org/ministries/raciai-equity-womens-intercultural-ministries/nispaniciatino-a-</u>intercultural-congregational-support

PC(USA)—Hispanic/Latinx National Presbyterian Caucus: www.facebook.com/HispanicLatinoPCUSA

PC(USA)—Office of Immigration Issues: www.oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration

PC(USA)—Presbyterian Publishing Corp. (Spanish Language): www.pcusastore.com

Puerto Rican Federal Affairs Administration (PRFAA) in Florida: www.prfaa.pr.gov/prfaa-florida

Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLDEF): www.latinojustice.org/en

Tomás Rivera Policy Institute at USC: www.socialinnovation.usc.edu/special-initiatives/tomas-rivera-policy-institute

UnidosUS (formerly NCLR): www.unidosus.org

United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC): www.ushcc.com

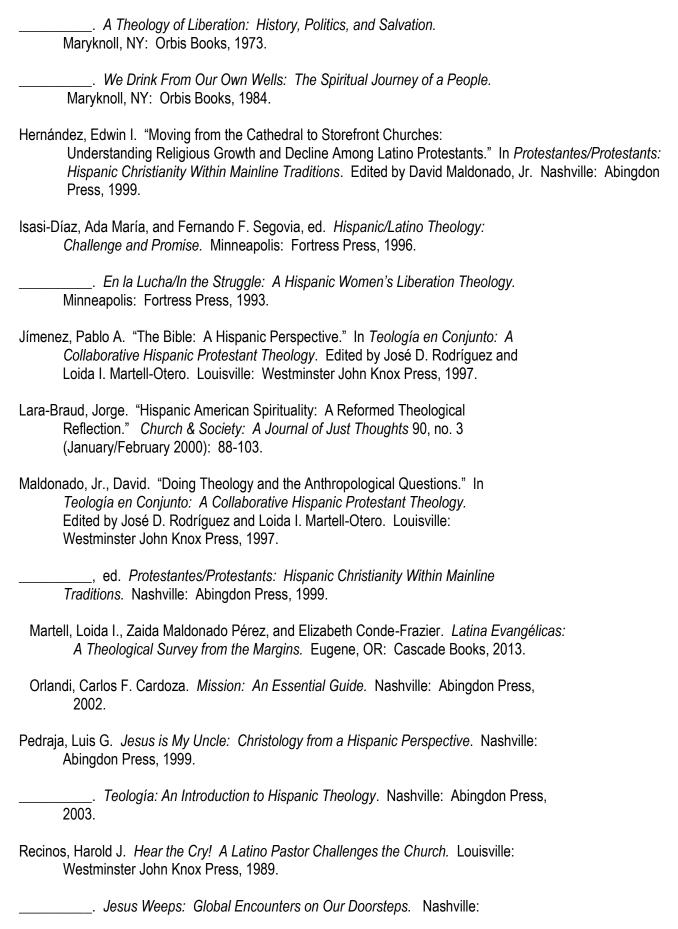
United We Dream (UWD): www.unitedwedream.org

Voto Latino: www.votolatino.org

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Heard Museum: Advancing American Indian Art https://heard.org

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