

The Report of the Anti-Racism and Equity Committee
Presbytery of Southern New England
May 6, 2021

For Presbytery Information:

The Anti-Racism and Equity Committee has been meeting monthly with Jessica Vasquez-Torres, the National Program Director of Crossroads Antiracism Organizing & Training since June of 2020.

Our mandate as a committee is:

To work towards the creation of an inclusive, equitable, antiracist culture within the PSNE that will be attractive to all people in particular those who have been systematically excluded from full participation in the presbytery, as we seek to be co-creators with Christ of a just, peaceful and healed world/creation.

In service of this mandate, the Committee is excited to launch three opportunities for PSNE:

- **Summer Book Study: *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving**
 - Wednesdays at 7pm
 - May 26–June 30

Through personal storytelling and deep historical analysis, Debby Irving brings her readers with her through a process of racial awakening. Irving grew up in a small New England town in Massachusetts. She feels as if she could be sitting next to us on Sunday morning as she brings us along her journey of finding her voice and place in creating a more racially just and equitable world.

This book is perfect for anyone who is feeling deeply moved and troubled by the events of the past year+, but hasn't known exactly what to do or how to help respond to racism in our country.

Sign up [HERE](#) for Waking Up White.

- **Summer Book Study: *White Awake: An Honest Look at What it Means to be White* by Daniel Hill**
 - Sundays at 7pm
 - May 23– June 27

Daniel Hill is a white pastor and preacher from the Midwest. Through this book, he brings readers along with him in his journey of learning, unlearning & finding his voice as a white minister in a world in need of racial reckoning and justice. His humility, insights, biblical commentary and historical analysis will make for a rich discussion for PSNE elders and clergy who are looking to interrogate how we lead and how we'd like to

do ministry in this time.

This book is perfect for elders and pastors who have been in the midst of a racial awakening for some time now, but want to dig deeper alongside fellow Presbyterians.

Sign up [HERE](#) for White Awake

- Upcoming Series for People of Color

The Committee is working on curating a series for people of color within the presbytery. The series will likely begin in the Fall. If you are interested, or have anyone in your congregations who might be interested, please contact Co-Chair Kirk Louis at kirk.louis@upsem.edu.

Both *Waking Up White* and *White Awake* are books that bring together personal narrative and historical analysis in a way that speaks precisely to the moments we find ourselves in as Christians today. We are looking forward to sharing the books and resources we have explored with Jessica Vasquez-Torres with the presbytery through the aforementioned small group framework. This will serve a dual purpose of helping our presbytery grow more deeply in our relationships with one another and with God's call on our lives in this time. If you have hopes for the group for people of color, we are eager to hear your feedback and create more opportunities for connection and community building.

For Presbytery Action:

There are no current items for Presbytery Action.