

CONFRONTING RACISM – Adult Study Series Fourth Session – December 2, 2018 – 9:45 – 10:20 AM.

Rev. Annanda Barclay will be leading this session as a dialogue and conversation around her responses to these four questions:

1. As a black pastor in a predominantly white church how does “white fragility” put constraints on who you are, what you say or preach about, and how you present yourself?
2. How does the inevitable white supremacy embedded in our church impact you in your pastoral role?
3. What are the difficulties of navigating issues of racism between your pastoral role (comforting people) and your prophetic role (making people uncomfortable)?
4. What kind of church environment would facilitate an open relationship with you around issues of privilege and white supremacy?

Summary of Previous Adult Study Sessions:

(Based upon a new book by Robin Diangelo entitled *White Fragility. Why it's so hard for white people to talk about racism.*)

Basic Propositions:

- A.** Being born white in America inevitably results, intentionally or unintentionally, in being socialized into racism: white superiority, privilege, white supremacy, racial bias, and social dominance.
- B.** Racism is about a system and culture that advantages whites and oppresses people of color, not primarily about specific events or individual acts.
- C.** The *invisibility* of “whiteness” enables most white people to maintain “the luxury of obliviousness” regarding their own racial bias and racist socialization.
- D.** White people, consciously or unconsciously, reap the benefits of systemic racism through unearned advantages and power.
- E.** The good/bad frame is a false dichotomy, i.e. “good people” (liberals, educated, etc.) are not racist, only “bad people” (bigoted, white nationalists, etc.). The idea that racism is limited to the intentional acts committed by unkind people is at the root of virtually all white defensiveness on this topic.
- F.** “White Fragility”, especially among “progressives”, makes us the least likely to confront our own racism, contributing to the maintenance and perpetuation of the system of white supremacy.