



CROSSROADS WORKSHOP

Date/Time: Saturday, December 9th @ 9am - 5pm

Place: Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana - 1941 High Street, Oakland, CA 94601

Workshop Description

“Racism, Power, & Dominance in the US and the Church” introduces participants to a working definition of system racism and considers how culture, cultural dominance, and organizations, including the church, are intentionally and unintentionally complicit in systemic racism. A rationale will be explored for the need to develop within the church a deeper understanding of the historic and legal roots and contemporary manifestations of cultural dominance and racism. Participants will build their capacity to engage in constructive dialogue about white supremacy and racism and will practice analyzing the ways systemic racism operates in U.S. society and their congregation. Finally, participants will explore individual and organizational strategies aimed at interrupting the ways systemic racism operates in our society.

Objectives

- Introduce the use of a Hermeneutical Reflection process as a tool for exploring systemic racism
- Explore the role of white dominant culture in creating the conditions that foment systemic racism
- Introduce and explore working definitions of white supremacy and systemic racism
- Identify how the Presbytery and its congregations, in spite of their commitments to racial equity, are complicit in maintaining systemic forms of oppression such as a racism
- Explore strategies the church can employ to nurture antiracist practice and culture in the church

Facilitators

Emily Drew is an Associate Professor of American Ethnic Studies at Willamette University, where she teaches courses about race, racism, and social change. She received her education from Jesuit universities, as well as from the People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond in New Orleans as a youth organizer and activist with European Dissent. Today, Drew is actively engaged in the educational reform and immigrant justice movements, producing research and engaging in campaigns to create access to education, restore families, and abolish the prison-industrial complex. Her research agenda revolves around understanding how race and racism operate inside of social institutions, with the goal of helping to illuminate more effective strategies for building more equitable institutions and society.

Jessica Vazquez Torres is a proven leader with 17-years experience in antiracism, anti-oppression, and cultural competency workshop development and facilitation. Jessica is deeply committed to addressing social structures and cultural dynamics that marginalize and minoritize communities limiting or preventing them from accessing the resources necessary to lead thriving lives. Jessica, a 1.5-Generation ESL Queer Latina of Puerto Rican descent, holds a Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Florida, a Master of Divinity from Christian Theological Seminary, and a Master of Theological Studies from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

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