



Racial Justice & Reconciliation

AT BETHANY COMMUNITY CHURCH

What is Reconciliation?

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

2 Corinthians 5:7-10

Reconciliation is the journey of joining Jesus in restoring broken relationships and systems through truth-telling, repentance, and forgiveness to reveal God's kingdom.

How does this apply to Racial Justice at Bethany?

The Body of Christ is racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse, and it is important for us to be reconciled in every way as we join the work of Christ.

The Ministry of Racial Justice and Reconciliation seeks God's heart of justice, restoration, and repair. This is done through discipleship, education, gatherings, restorative practices, and response when harm* has been done.

HARRP, the **Healing and Racial Reconciliation Process**, was created to aid in preventing racial harm and responding to it when it occurs.

Harm is defined as "placing an obstacle in the path of someone's pursuit of Christ, the path of human flourishing."

- A Letter to My Congregation,
Ken Wilson, 2014

HARRP

MOVING FROM SEPARATE STORIES TO SHARED STORIES

The Healing and Racial Reconciliation Process has two parts: Prevention and Intervention. These parts are designed to disciple people toward empathy, apology, and forgiveness as we better understand how racism breaks shalom within the body of Christ.

PREVENTION

This part of the process involves avenues of engagement for people of all experiences through community building, study, storytelling, and leadership development. *Restorative Circles* are one of the primary ways of engagement in prevention work. This involves sharing, listening, and being heard around the particularities of cultural, racial, and ethnic experience in a group setting. Participants engage in a circle of mutual sharing and solidarity.

INTERVENTION

As a church community grows, it is expected that racial harm will occur. The practice of intervention provides opportunity for *Restorative Dialogue* between individuals. These dialogues are a place for listening, responding, and making a plan for repair.

Peer facilitators meet with those involved in a situation of racial harm, aiding in preparation, processing, and moving forward. Conversations are held in respectful confidentiality.

CREATING A PLACE OF BELONGING

Our hope is that each person at Bethany will find their place in this shared home-building work as we embody the belonging of the Body of Christ. This involves commitment to living together as reconcilers across the dividing wall of racism, and responding to one another with care.



Our History

BETHANY COMMUNITY CHURCH was originally founded as an outreach toward the Native American people of this region, the Duwamish People of Seattle (*Dxʷd̓wʔabš*, “People of the Inside”). We recognize that our history bears the marks of colonization, and we are committed to doing our part to engage with, and amplify the voices of Native peoples and tribes as we walk in Jesus’ reconciliation way.

Bethany re-established a relationship with the Duwamish Tribe in 2017, partnering with and supporting Duwamish Tribal Services. We express our respect and gratitude for our indigenous siblings, their elders, and for their past, present, and future care and protection of our shared lands and waterways.

THE MINISTRY OF RACIAL JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION (MRJR) began in 2016 in response to national racialized events. Congregants and staff realized our discipleship was not addressing the harm of racism in context of the Gospel, nor was it preparing us as members of Christ’s diverse Body to minister to one another effectively. We are committed to the shared work of healing and preparing for reconciliation.

NEXT STEPS:

churchbcc.org/raceandjustice

Have you experienced racial harm in the church?

Contact: harrp@churchbcc.org

Other questions about our HARRP process?

Contact: mrjr@churchbcc.org



Bethany Community Church

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