

What's next?

This is a question that we are always eager to hear. Participating in a workshop is very important, but it is only the first step. The next few steps involve getting organized, promoting, and encouraging more conversations on race, becoming a facilitator in these conversations, and much more as we continue on the journey toward racial reconciliation.

We have helped church leaders, school principals, community leaders, and individuals to take the next step so that they and you can teach and guide others on becoming racial healers.



“Great workshop . . . helped to reenergize me to reach out and not be afraid to build relationships with people who are different from me in my community.”

—Participant at
Cultural Intelligence Building

“[I learned a lot from] the history portion [day 2] and the historical and generational trauma portion, and [from] the video on the Doctrine of Discovery.”

—Participant at Racism:
Looking Back, Moving Forward



Resourcing your congregation as you dismantle racism



We can help!
Call us or send us an email:



Christian Reformed Church
**Race
Relations**

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Christian Reformed Church
**Race
Relations**

What is the Office of Race Relations?

We're a ministry established by the Christian Reformed Church to resource and train members and congregations as they dismantle the causes and effects of racism within the body of believers and throughout the world. We help you to live as God's diverse and unified family. As a denomination, we believe that dismantling racism is not peripheral to our Christian calling. It's a gospel issue!

Why Racial Reconciliation?

There is the idea that we live in a post-racist era. But statistics show otherwise. Racism has only evolved, and it will keep evolving. It's important to understand that evil is still in force in our world, and it is manifested in different ways. As followers of Jesus, we are called to bring reconciliation wherever there is division, hate, discrimination. . . .

How do we do it?

We promote dialogue. We believe that open conversations are the best way to learn from and to understand each other. We also believe that sharing stories is a powerful way to grow to know each other, helping people to feel comfortable in developing new relationships. Honest dialogue can help us grow in understanding why some people have more opportunities than others, and why for some it is harder to receive the inalienable human rights that should be available for all.

Can Race Relations come to my area?

Of course! We want to bring the learning to congregations, schools, colleges, councils, institutions, organizations, business . . . wherever it is needed.



Our resources

RACISM: Looking Back. Moving Forward

During this **two-day** workshop, participants learn about the foundation of racism and whiteness by putting together a timeline that helps to see how racism became instituted. The workshop is divided into three sections: Biblical Foundation; History of Racism; Lament.

The Blanket Exercise

This **90-minute** workshop literally walks participants through the history of relationships between European and Indigenous nations in North America, from the perspective of Native Americans. The Blanket Exercise has been conducted in schools, congregations, and community centers, and it is accessible for participants ages 10 and older.

“How can I say I’m getting a good and well-rounded education when I have never heard about these terrible acts and laws that oppressed entire people groups for hundreds of years?”

—Participant at
The Blanket Exercise



Cultural Intelligence Building

This **one-day** workshop focuses on developing concrete skills to improve our ability to act and react in positive ways across cultural lines. Through carefully tailored interactive exercises, participants become aware of their personal lifelong journey in cultural intelligence and build their capacity to improve their cultural intelligence quotient (CQ) over time.



“The biblical background was great for framing the discussion, and the timeline and history were so necessary! The cultural discussion helped bring up real questions on how to decipher differences and what to do with them moving forward. The activity with the line was incredibly powerful. I think it was really all relevant, meaningful, and a ton to process.”

—Participant at Racism:
Looking Back, Moving Forward

History of Whiteness

The concept of whiteness has been part of the daily life of American society since its beginning. This artificial racial categorization feels “normal” and is therefore seldom questioned. This ideology has contributed to division, pain, and trauma. The presentation lasts **two hours**.

Church Between Borders

This **one-day** workshop is about how churches can (1) be a welcoming presence for immigrants, (2) help in the struggles immigrants face when they are not able to get documentation for living in the United States, and (3) have the awesome ability to transform those struggles by acting with justice and mercy.

*Resourcing your congregation
as you dismantle racism*