

April 22, 2021

Easter greetings to you!

I am writing to you a few days after the verdict in the trial of Derek Chauvin, for the murder of George Floyd. There are three prayers for personal reflection or community worship on The United Church of Canada website in response; in addition, [here is a statement](#) by our full-communion partner, the United Church of Christ USA.

Here is the latest update about The United Church of Canada's ongoing anti-racism work.

The Anti-Racism Common Table, the United Church's new national anti-racism committee, is actively working on developing a national anti-racism action plan. This is a plan for the United Church as a whole, across our varied ministries and communities of faith. It will offer some suggested ideas and directions for the next few years.

There will be consultations about the proposed plan in the upcoming months. At the moment, it is still in a draft format, but several themes are emerging: education, advocacy, policy, healing, and theology.

Focus on Education

Education is one of the likely themes in the plan. There are several educational initiatives underway that will be available to you in the upcoming months.

We are launching the first in a series of anti-racism video in May. These videos will be available in English and French (with accompanying questions for group or individual discussion). This first video in the series offer provide an overview of the United Church's commitment to becoming an anti-racist denomination and will feature voices such as the Moderator and General Secretary. It is designed for communities of faith and for broad use across the church.

In addition, there are several other educational resources in progress:

- A study guide primarily designed for ministry personnel, a portion of which will include preaching on race and racism
- Additional ways to engage with the United Church's commitment to the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent

- An anti-racism children's church school resource
- Some specific resources on anti-Indigenous racism and the connections between decolonization and racism

Several of these resources will be available in the fall season, and they will be advertised widely when they are ready. The resources will be offered in both English and French.

A reminder that the first sessions of the United Church's online racial justice workshops are next offered on **May 15 and May 22**. These workshops are an excellent opportunity to learn more about racial justice and to be grounded in United Church policy and theology. The workshop series was updated in 2019 and 2020 and are offered in four sessions.

Ecumenically, a new companion study guide to the videos of "Recognition, Justice, and Development: Peoples of African Descent and Canadian Churches," is now available in English and French from the Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning.

The Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network also has educational resources available.

What have you been doing in terms of education and learning? Please share more by emailing anti-racism@united-church.ca, or post what you are doing in the United Church Anti-Racism Facebook group.

With thanks,

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The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.

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