

INTRO TO WHITENESS AND CHURCH

September 1, 2020

Good Morning to you all.

We come asking you to consider a topic that is pandemic in proportion and has been raging for many years. This pandemic of racism and white supremacy threatens to destroy the Country as we thought we knew it. A little about myself. My name is James Tyler and most friends call me Jim. I have a Bachelor of Music Education degree and taught 34 years. Concurrently I got a Master's in Organ and have held positions in several churches up thru Aug. 30 when I completed 42 years at First in Fullerton. For most of my career I taught schools that were all white and held positions in churches that we all white. I was elected to Synod council when it was first formed. Served on Church in Society and began work on race and gender issues and inclusion for what became Pacifica Synod. I am a founding member of LCLA/ReconcilingWorks and served on that board as Co-director of multicultural Relations. So for many years I have attended and presented workshops on anti-racism.

The question before us is how do we begin the work for change in the Church and in the Country.

I suspect that each of us here have led or attended a bible class or study. One of the given for such a class is that we each read aloud or silently a given passage we are to study, This is important in order that we are all on the same chapter and verse for the discussion. I think we can apply that procedure to our study of the history of racism. To help us along these lines we have a video that explores the legal steps that started this system of racism. The speaker is addressing the WHITE PRIVILEGE CONFERENCE held in 2014. I attended two WHITE PRIVILEGE CONFERENCES before Dr. Battalora published her book on Birth of a White Nation. Let us begin our efforts by starting on the same chapter and verse of racism in the U. S.

More silence on this issue will mean that the machine of history will roll on over us.

We come not seeking guilt or blame. We come together to seek truth of this very vexing issue. Jesus said, "I am the way and the TRUTH."

James P. Tyler, Jr.