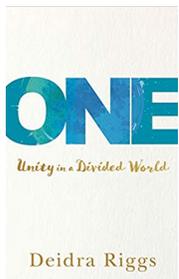


# R.A.R.E

*Racism Awareness, Reconciliation, and Engagement*

## Resources: Books

### Getting Started

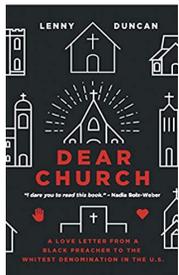


#### [One: Unity in a Divided World](#)

*Deidra Riggs*

We are driven away from each other by race, by religion, by sex and by politics -- to name just a few of the topics and issues that divide us. But this is not God's vision for us. God desires us to be one in Christ, one in faith and one in community, even though we are different from one another. In *One*, Riggs asks us to put our focus on self-preservation aside and, like Jesus, make the first move toward reconciliation.

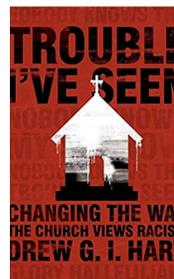
In 2018 Southwood Lutheran Church and Deidra Riggs created a small-group study for *One*, which is available free of charge to churches in the Nebraska ELCA Synod. The five-session video series and accompanying study guide is available [here](#)



#### [Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US](#)

*Lenny Duncan*

Part manifesto, part confession, *Dear Church* rejects the narrative of church decline and calls everyone--leaders and laity alike--to the front lines of the church's renewal through racial equality and justice. Includes chapter-by-chapter discussion guide.

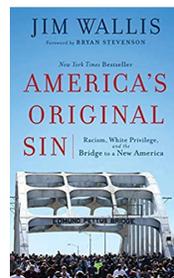


#### [Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism](#)

*Drew Hart*

Hart offers concrete practices for churches that seek solidarity with the oppressed and are committed to racial justice.

Free, downloadable, chapter-by-chapter study guide.



#### [America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America](#)

*Jim Wallis*

Biblically rooted yet highly practical, this book shows people of faith how they can work together to overcome the embedded racism in America.

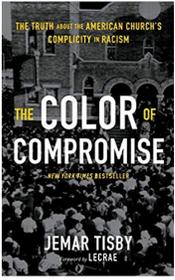
Free, six-week downloadable study guide.



#### [Roadmap to Reconciliation 2.0: Moving Communities into Unity, Wholeness, and Justice](#)

*Brenda Salter McNeil*

Based on her extensive consulting experience with churches, colleges and organizations, Rev. Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil has created a roadmap to reconciliation. Reflection questions and exercises at the end of each chapter are conducive to group study.



## [The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism](#)

*Jemar Tisby*

The Color of Compromise details how the American church has helped create and maintain racist ideas and charts a path forward to replace established patterns and systems of complicity with bold, courageous, immediate action.

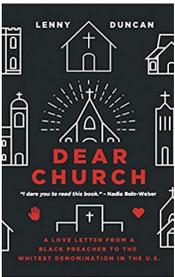


## [White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity](#)

*Robert Jones*

Christianity's role as a cornerstone of white supremacy has been largely overlooked. But white Christians—from evangelicals in the South to mainline Protestants in the Midwest and Catholics in the Northeast—have not just been complacent or complicit; rather, as the dominant cultural power, they have constructed and sustained a project of protecting white supremacy and opposing black equality that has framed the entire American story. Jones delivers an analysis of the symbiotic relationship between Christianity and white supremacy and demonstrates how deeply racist attitudes have become embedded in the DNA of white Christian identity over time.

# In-Depth Study



## [The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness](#)

*Michelle Alexander*

Biblically rooted yet highly practical, this book shows people of faith how they can work together to overcome the embedded racism in America.

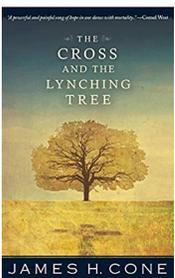
[Several study/discussion guides for purchase as well as available for free download available.](#)



## [Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God](#)

*Kelly Brown Douglas*

The 2012 killing of Trayvon Martin and the subsequent acquittal of his killer brought public attention to controversial "Stand Your Ground" laws. The verdict, as much as the killing, sent shock waves through the African-American community, recalling a history of similar deaths, and the long struggle for justice. On the Sunday morning following the verdict, black preachers around the country addressed the question, "Where is the justice of God? What are we to hope for?" This book is an attempt to take seriously social and theological questions raised by this and similar stories, and to answer black church people's questions of justice and faith in response to the call of God.



## [The Cross and the Lynching Tree](#)

*James Cone*

In this book, James Cone recognizes this profound paradox of the cross and argues that the cross ought to serve as the paradigmatic symbol through which one can talk about being both black and Christian in America. In The Cross and the Lynching Tree, Cone does this systematically and reflectively, simultaneously looking backwards and forwards, offering a resting place for black America to leave its burdens and providing a path for a better, more united America.