

General Commission on Religion and Race Have We Arrived Yet Podcast Study Guide

The work of the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR) involves advocating for racial and ethnic justice, reconciliation and inclusiveness in the church and in society. This podcast series is one of many ways GCORR is creating a platform for dialog, introspection, and action to help foster awareness and justice. With the many social, political, and community events taking place around us, we are sometimes led to think about the direct or indirect connections to race or racism. The church is not exempt from the effects of these events and must have strategies in place to deal with concerns that impact the lives of everyone.

GCORR has assembled a group of lay persons and members of the clergy to discuss a number of topics relating to race, ethnicity and inclusiveness from the perspective of the faith community. The subjects included in this podcast series are:

Cross-cultural Appointments	Why Don't we Want to Talk about Race?
Immigration	Are We There Yet?
Discussing Race in a Multicultural Community	Are You UMC Enough?
Guess Who's Coming to Church?	It's Not What You Say...
Have We Arrived Yet?	The Rules of Engagement
Pastor Hatin' (mega-church challenges)	Is the Church Ready for the Millenials?
Disconnecting with Our Roots	

The General Commission on Religion and Race hopes these podcasts will inspire and renewed spirit of racial and ethnic understanding among each other as we move toward building a beloved community of justice, healing and hope.



PODCAST: Have We Arrived Yet?

Our country has recently seen some significant firsts: the election of America's first African American president and the first Latino to be appointed to the Supreme Court. In light of these milestones, this discussion will explore the church's reaction and the church's role in guiding discussion about race for teaching moments for the church.

PANEL:

Erin M. Hawkins (moderator)

General Secretary, General Commission on Religion and Race

Rev. Joseph E. Lowery

Cascade United Methodist Church
Atlanta, GA

Bishop Gregory Palmer
Illinois Great Rivers Conference
President, Council of Bishops

Dr. Cynthia Hopson
Assistant General Secretary, Black College Fund
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

Rev. Abby Kocher
Community Minister, Duke University Chapel
Durham, NC

Angella Current-Felder
Executive Director, Office of Loans and Scholarships
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

Rev. Jerry DeVine
Detroit Annual Conference
Director of Connectional Ministries

Rev. Larry Pickens
Senior Pastor, Northbrook United Methodist Church
Northbrook, IL

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. How have these “firsts” affected how white clergy react to clergy of color or ethnic congregations?
2. Has the Obama election affected how clergy of other ethnic groups react to black clergy?
3. Have the historic firsts had any effect on how African American and Hispanic leaders in churches or agencies are perceived? Received?
4. Do these events introduce new possibilities for the UMC to respond to diversity?
5. Is white privilege the new four-letter word?