

Hobgood, William Chris: Born Apart, Becoming One: Disciples Defeating Racism

Christ Hobgood is a former General Minister and President of the Christian Church (DOC) and a core organizer/trainer for Pro-reconciliation/Anti-racism. The book in the SEGA PR/AR library is autographed.

“The purpose of this book is to enable a deep exploration of the relationship to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to the pro-reconciliation/anti-racism initiative of our denomination, with the goal of engaging individuals and congregations in this initiative to dismantle institutional racism.” P. 1

“The book divides in three sections: (1) a brief examination of Disciples of Christ history, particularly as it relates to the racism that was already doing its work in the U.S.A. when we were born; (2) a look at several core elements that have been part of our life from the beginning and that offer places for important anti-racism work to be done; and (3) ways to move ahead in the battle against racism.” P. 1

“It has been said time and again that racism will not be overcome until white persons move to confess and then share privilege. But we white persons cannot do this without the support, care, and partnership of persons of color who love God and Jesus Christ and who, for reasons I sometimes cannot understand, still love us.” P. 2

There are 10 chapters in the book with questions for reflection and study at the end of each chapter.

Chapter 1--A Spiritual Movement Begins on the Frontier--is a brief history of DOC.

Chapter 2--Born Apart--is a history of race in the U.S. and its place in DOC

Chapter 3--Covenantal Values--An Overview--sets forth the 5 core values of the DOC and adds dismantling racism as a necessary 6<sup>th</sup> value. Each value is discussed in the next 6 chapters and related to the question of racism and its dismantling.

Chapter 4--I Confess That Jesus is the Christ

Chapter 5--The Open and Inclusive Table

Chapter 6--God's Call to All “We can all be ministers of redemption and reconciliation as we wrestle to eradicate racism from our belief and practice as people of faith.” P. 70f

Chapter 7--Our Polar Star--which is unity. “..passion for unity calls us to places even beyond the church's unity as the sole form into which we are called to live. Realizing that God's creation is meant to be one, that it is created in unity in a way far greater than anything we can do or say, we seek to live into the oneness God has already made with the total human family and, indeed, the whole creation.”

Chapter 8--Restoring the Justice of God--“Justice that is applied within the church but isn't taken out to the world is stunted, self-focused, and is really injustice. In all that we do--from evangelism to world mission, lunches for the homeless to day school, new congregation planting to leader training, the arts to

being wholly open for all of god's beloved children--in *all* of this, God's justice is required of us. God's justice, again, means returning to all creation the dignity and value with which God creates us." P. 91

Chapter 9--Becoming One--"The risks of having privilege and power while others do not have it are high. Both those with and those without privilege and power become distorted, wounded, seeing themselves as either far more or far less than God creates us to be. The space God has given us is of a kind in which all share in the privilege of being God's beloved children. In this way the world will know that we are created to be *one*." P. 107f

Chapter 10--Your Congregation's Next Steps--This chapter has 6 subsections

- Racism's Three Powers--A Tool for Assessment
- Our Response to These Powers
- Possible Steps
- Resources
- Take Action
- Some Important Things to Remember
  - *"The Disciples of Christ are a fertile field for anti-racism work to take place."*
  - *"Prejudice reduction is not the same as anti-racism."*
  - *"Racism never goes into remission."*
  - *"Our commitment as a denomination/movement is to become anti-racist by 2030. Will we? The answer depends, I believe, on each congregation's response and, then, willingness to become engaged. I believe that if we are servants of the gospel of Jesus Christ, we have no choice."* P. 115