

University Presbyterian Church, Social Witness Committee**Building Critical Consciousness: A Life-Long Journey Towards Social Justice**

The Social Witness Committee Learning Interactive Journey is designed to facilitate an engaging and transformative learning experience focused on diverse experiences and journeys in advocating for a socially just society. The critical consciousness framework inspired by Paulo Freire informs the design and delivery of the sessions, incorporating essential individual and collective reflection and engagement in a social praxis (action) project. The Learning Interactive Journey sessions are facilitated utilizing didactic methods, readings, videos, experiential exercises, and authentic group discussions. In addition, individual presentations of participant culture chests focus on social identity, social group membership, and individual and collective reflection on how these domains intersect to shape life experiences.

Below are reading suggestions to add to the depth and meaningfulness of the learning journey. Participants will purchase their texts, Amazon may be a good first place to start, I recommend the two following books:

- Adams, M., Blumenfeld, W.J., Castaneda, R., Hackman, H.W., Petters, M.L., Zuniga, X. (Fourth Eds.). (2018). Readings for diversity and social justice: An anthology on racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, heterosexism, classism, and ableism. New York: Routledge. (3rd Edition is fine)
- Stevenson, B. (2014). Just mercy : a story of justice and redemption. New York : Spiegel & Grau.

Enjoy the reading journey. As you read, consider what resonates with you, what new ideas and perspectives have been raised, and what you remain critically curious about. Don't worry if you cannot complete all the readings according to the schedule below: quality over quantity. We each know what material may be a refresher, what is new, and, as adult learners, what interests us in delving deeper. None of us come to the learning journey as blank slates, and every individual brings something unique to our journey.

Feel free to contact me to ask any questions, clarify, make comments, or simply check-in. I frequently check both emails: praxis@equitynaction.com or bluemountains18@icloud.com. For your reference, aspects of my professional background can be found below:

University of Texas at Austin, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, Associate Tenured Professor, 2005-2022

[MicheleARountree CV--09242020 \(utexas.edu\)](#)

Tohono O'odham Community College, Social Work Instructor, 2023-present

[Faculty - Tohono O'odham Community College \(tocc.edu\)](#)

I am humbled that a former student, Reverend Allen Roberts, recommended me for the opportunity. I thank him and Jennie Chao for the privilege of facilitating the interactive learning journey with the Social Witness Committee. My greatest pride is my 22-year-old daughter Naiya, who is starting her graduate degree at Prairie View A&M. I look forward to learning more about each of you, Michele A. Rountree, MSW, Ph.D., Dr. Michele A. Rountree, LLC

The agenda below provides an overview of the sessions and the suggested readings. Knowledge and skill building are iterative processes so that modifications may be made to the agenda periodically.

Saturday, January 20th, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. CST

ZOOM LINK:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85081725776?pwd=vQo347fhtrPyOxEIb3f8qPt81ArhYk.1>

Meeting ID: 850 8172 5776

Passcode: 119317

TEXTS:

Adams et. al (2018), *Getting Started: Core Concepts For Social Justice Education*, pp. 1-59, Section 2: Racism, pp. 65-157

Stevenson (2014), *Introduction; Higher Ground, Mockingbird Players, Stand*

Getting Grounded:

Introductions, Overview, and Expectations of the Learning Journey

Critical Consciousness Model: Critical Analysis, Critical Consciousness, Praxis and Relevance to Readings

Social Witness Action Project

Saturday, February 17th, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. CST

ZOOM Link

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89000756202?pwd=qOXUzIaf1pp8O7Wsn7PKrZ4uWxwBBx.1>

Meeting ID: 890 0075 6202
Passcode: 269908

TEXTS:

Adams, et. al (2018), Classism, pp. 163-243, Religious Oppression, pp. 247-330.

Stevenson (2014), Trials and Tribulation, The Old Rugged Cross, Of the Coming of John, Surely Doomed

Getting Grounded:

What is Culture? Social Identity and Relevance to Readings

Dr. R's Culture Chest Presentation

Social Witness Action Project

Saturday, March 16th, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. CST

ZOOM LINK:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81791331738?pwd=dWJkVUEffHk2zOVnRmqUBNcYuuZU.1>

Meeting ID: 817 9133 1738
Passcode: 850269

TEXTS:

Adams, et. al (2018), Sexism, Heterosexism, And Trans Oppression, pp. 341-464, Ableism, pp. 467-541.

Stevenson (2014), Justice Denied, All God's Children, I'm Here, Mitigation

Getting Grounded:

Social Identities, Intersectionality, Isms & Relevance to Readings

Culture Chest Presentations

Social Witness Action Project

Saturday, April 20th, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. CST

ZOOM LINK:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83587754806?pwd=1SWizmUUxMYRb6mRkUX7VR9pLERckc.1>

Meeting ID: 835 8775 4806

Passcode: 188506

TEXTS:

Adams, et. al (2018), Youth and Elder Oppression, pp. 545-594

Stevenson (2014), I'll Fly Away, Mother, Mother, Recovery, Cruel and Unusual

Getting Grounded:

Awareness, Allyship, Co-Aspirer for Social Justice & Relevance to Readings

Culture Chest Presentations

Social Witness Action Project

Saturday, May 18, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. CST

ZOOM LINK:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89419981008?pwd=zC6i9au7a1MRcw6P1flhP2vI2I3iAP.1>

Meeting ID: 894 1998 1008

Passcode: 727725

TEXTS:

Adams, et. al (2018), Working for Social Justice: Visions and Strategies, pp. 599-649

Stevenson (2014), Broken, The Stonecatchers' Song of Sorrow, Epilogue

Getting Grounded:

*A Life-Long Individual and Collective Journey Towards Social Justice: Critical
Consciousness in Action & Relevance to Readings*

Culture Chest Presentations

Social Witness Action Project