

**Virtual Green Lake
Opening Day 3 Chat Transcript
Wednesday, July 1, 2020**

- Israel Chaffin: "Here is something worthy of further meditation. "It's not just black and white, but it's black and white right now."
-Brenda Girton-Mitchell"
- Dianna Borum: teaching moments are Holy moments
- Greg Metzger: "Thank you for your gracious sharing of yourself, Brenda."
- Carlas Gilbert: "Definitely Holy moments.. And time for everyone to look inside and reflect on their feelings on what is transpiring in the statement ""black and white"" right now..."
- Nate Bacon: God has been putting Hebrews 12 on my heart since Monday!
- John Armstrong: 2 Corinthians 5 an Hebrews 12 are clearly for us right now. Thanks Brenda and Alexei.
- Israel Chaffin: "Alexei—thanks for sharing and saying so, regarding the implicit bias of other traditions and of people when we haven't developed or experienced relationship."
- Bob Miller: Amen to that point! Every view point is simply a VIEW from one POINT!
- John Armstrong: "Amen Israel. Implicit bias, linked to cultural and religious confirmation bias, has become a stronghold of the evil one."
- Greg Metzger: "Wow, yes, amen, "" a better word"" what a text for us. Thank you."
- Nate Bacon: amen.
- Dianna Borum: Amen
- Richard Hetzler: Are we misusing the word race for ethnicity? We are all part of the human race!
- John Armstrong: "No. Race is a construct created by Europeans and it is now used to describe what we are talking about. Slavery was not about ethnicity, not was Jim Crow, but rather a function of ownership and control rooted in whiteness being superior before God over blackness, weak and under more severe judgment, etc."

Craig Higgins: Thanks to both of you!

Greg Metzger: "Amen, what a blessing. thank you Alexei. What a moment of grace and invitation to journey together."

Nate Bacon: Thanks so much. Really beautiful and honest from both of you. Inspiring.

Bob Miller: Grreat balanced reflections!! Thanks to both of you!!

Katie Andraski: Thank you both Alexi and Brenda.

John Armstrong: "Amen, Thanks for your lovely Christ-honoring friendship showing us a way forward. You give us Godly hope."

Craig Higgins: Amen!

Wally Johnson: Amen - Lord have mercy...

Dianna Borum: yes yes yes

Nate Bacon: preach

Carlas Gilbert: YES!!!

Bob Miller: Yes! Know YOUR personal race stpary ...

Carlas Gilbert: This conversation is critical when marrying outside of you race.

Dianna Borum: we must tell our stories to are family and friends

John Armstrong: Beautiful reflections by all of you. This is powerful and life transforming sharing.

Bob Miller: Speaking TRUTH!

Dianna Borum: His-story (history) is based on our individual memories. we as black people must tell it to our white friends so that the whole story is known.

Jonathan Wallin: Yes! Amen!

John Armstrong: "Thank you Dianna. This is the way we heal, or at least begin the healing."

Susan Taylor: "Thank you, Brenda Girton-Mitchell for speaking the truth in love to all of us! "

Judy M Rush: Hearing about the various stories regarding racism and living it has a much more significant impact on who we are as black people.

Bob Miller: "The way the American immigrants interpreted the Bible was flawed because of race, ERGO the way church and country was perceived was flawed! "

Greg Metzger: Yes amen.

Carlas Gilbert: "Yes Black people must share their personal stories with their white friends, and these white friends must share among their white friends and family. Story telling is a great way of understanding the inner feelings of the black experiences."

John Armstrong: Thanks Bob. Amen. WE told ONE STORY and our power controlled and defined it.

Elizabeth Woodard: "Brenda, what do you think a Christian, ally to black brothers and sisters, does in situations where their (white) families say racist things? how do we temper mercy and justice? how do we speak in a way that people don't just shut us out?"

Judy M Rush: Yes atlas I totally agree.

Judy M Rush: Carlas is the correction

Dianna Borum: TRUE

Bob Miller: Opportunities for racial dialogue and mutual prayer - amen!!

Dianna Borum: change starts with me how do I feel about this new way of looking at the worlds issues. now what am I can i do about it based on what I know about myself. being aware of who I need to be reconciled with whether black or white.

Greg Metzger: "We who come from the Anabaptist tradition have something in our story that I think has the potential to carry over to the American racial context. I think it's easier for us to see the power and significance of generational forgiveness on racial history because of how we have that legacy within the White European Church story. It's not the same thing at all, but it's got resonance. The film really hinted at that yesterday. "

Mark Johnson: A Curriculum is needed for all Race Base Thinking

John Armstrong: Very good Greg Metzger. This is why American anabaptists can and should help us. We need them in our conversation and fellowship.

Greg Metzger: I think so.

Mark Johnson: IT is not the responsibility of the minority to educate the white superiority or ignorance of those who hold power

Nate Bacon: "Mark, I'm currently in a 'Race Literacy 101' course that has been excellent. It is run by people of color. Lots of small group work to tell our stories honestly to one another. so helpful to go deeper into our stories, and really listen to one another."

Katie Andraski: Nate thank you. You answered my question to Mark.

Alexei Laushkin: <https://mlkbridges.com/>

Nancy Goede: How can we lead congregations to speak a better word about structural racism?

Nate Bacon: "alexei, watching that now. it's great."

John Armstrong: Howard Thurman was like a mentor to MLK Jr.

Alexei Laushkin: F Willis Johnson

Alexei Laushkin: https://www.amazon.com/Holding-Up-Your-Corner-Community/dp/1501837591/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=F+Willis+Johnson&qid=1593622527&sr=8-1

Norlyn Dimmitt: "Almost any book by John Perkins is worth reading, for the role of friendship and community, in achieving reconciliation and #RacialEquity."

Alexei Laushkin: Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Alexei Laushkin: <https://www.pbs.org/weta/reconstruction/>

Craig Higgins: Inexpensive online subscriptions to the Washington Post are available to Amazon Prime members. The Post is an excellent newspaper.

Alexei Laushkin: The Inward Journey by Howard Thurman https://www.amazon.com/Inward-Journey-Howard-Thurman/dp/0913408034/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=Howard+Thurman&qid=1593622579&sr=8-4

Greg Metzger: "Nancy, our congregation just began a program led by a group called inward bound and it has been excellent. Racism in America: What is Mine to Do Program. All about telling your own race story to each other. Very pastorally appropriate. www.inwardboundcenter.org"

Alexei Laushkin: This Far by Faith

Alexei Laushkin: <https://vimeo.com/142295034>

Alexei Laushkin: Resource also from a friend of the work
Alexei Laushkin: <https://repentanceproject.org/>
Dianna Borum: Mark I believe it is my responsibility to make sure my sphere of friends know my story and I need to open up to them so they are not afraid to open up to me. it is a risk
Greg Metzger: "So well said Dianna, what a grace."
Greg Metzger: A whole new Catholic website is www.blackfaithmatters.org
Greg Metzger: It includes a short film about our friend Ansel Augustine who was in our Initiative webinar last month. An African American Catholic lay leader who has done a lot of work in New Orleans.
Tom Masters: <https://tolton.archchicago.org/documents/1604561/1604725/Tolton+Biography+-+PDF/d8d2f8ac-b0c6-4180-b474-0ea68b4849ba>
Nate Bacon: "As a white guy, immersed in a Latino world, I have been so blessed to immerse myself in the words, writings and leadership of my African American sisters and brothers. Helps to clarify and feel the pain of 400 years of racist dehumanization in the US. Holds up a mirror. It's truly a demonic force. Within the Initiative, I've really been blessed by the wisdom and friendship of Tony Williams."
Katie Andraski: "Tony's thoughtful and kind response to something I said in FB is why I'm here, along with Greg Metzger's invite."
Alexei Laushkin: We are going to have a follow up for the Initiative August 12 12pm ET
Greg Metzger: Thank you!
Bob Miller: Thanks to all!! Great stuff - hard but SOLID!
John Armstrong: "Yes, hard and SOLID both."
Alexei Laushkin: Thank you Father Bob! Thank you everyone really a joy to be with all of you. A Spirit blessed time!
Ed ONeal: "Yes, hard stuff - but good"
Dianna Borum: we have been and still are in a spiritual war against the v evil one pitting us against one another
Greg Metzger: Another African American Catholic voice to consider is Dr. Shannen Dee Williams from Villanova. Shes' taught me much.

Jonathan Wallin: Thank you. Much to reflect on.

Dinah Dale: Excellent talk and questions and resources. Thank you!

Katie Andraski: "Thank you so much This has helped ground me, especially in conversation with black friends."