

# Undoing Racism

## Episcopal Church at Yale (ECY)

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# WELCOME!

BRANDON CHAMBERS, CO-CONVENER

Hello! If you are new to ECY's Undoing Racism initiative then welcome! If you've taken part before then we're blessed to have you back. This academic year, we're reworking the Undoing Racism working group to build on its strengths. We know that ECY members appreciated the time that we used to discuss tough topics like police brutality, fascism, and xenophobia, in an intimate setting. We'll continue to provide this space and we hope that you'll join us in those conversations going forward.

You'll also be aware that ECY is taking major strides this year to become a student-led ministry. In this spirit, each of our Congregational Council members have indicated that anti-racism is central to ECY's several ministries, from evangelism to social media. In light of that, the Undoing Racism working group will also be a resource to support ECY in that mission of making anti-racism central in all that we do.

Joseph Cundiff (co-convener), Melia Young, Maria Hackett, Rev. Armando Ghingalia, Rev. Paul J. Carling (working members), and I will be working together to facilitate these twin aims. Please reach out to any of us if you have any ideas; we're here to make this working group work for ECY and work for you. In that spirit, let us remind ourselves that the kingdom of God is "justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." We invite you to walk with us this year as we "pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding."

With every good wish,  
Brandon Chambers  
Undoing Racism Co-Convener

JOIN US TOMORROW  
FOR CONVERSATION!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER  
1, 2020

6 PM

ZOOM LINK:

[HTTPS://YALE.ZOOM.U  
S/J/97231241831](https://yale.zoom.us/j/97231241831)

# CHALLENGING WHITENESS, ENCOURAGING WITNESS

MARIA HACKETT, MEMBER



Whiteness, as we know it, is the ultimate construct of all constructs. It breathes like the living force from which all humanity has been derived, it lives like a guiding principle by which all human beings and contributions are judged—in likeness or discordance—according to its mere existence, and, in America, it dominates as the primary model through which reflection, thought, intellect, and enterprise form their identities. Salient or not, the existence of everything as we know as American or European has been formed out of Whiteness as a construct.

What we have yet to uncover, however, is how to deconstruct Whiteness in a disturbingly White world where non-White people exist. What sustainable and tangible steps are we taking to ensure that our daily efforts make life more racially equitable than it was the day before?

The Book of Isaiah reminds us that “[W]e are the clay, and you[God] are our potter; we are all the work of your[God’s] hand.” As God has created us to facilitate life on earth, so are we called to be builders in creating a world on earth that can destabilize Whiteness with our witness. When we testify to a loving, disrupting, and liberating Christ, we make space for a new world among us to rise up— one that delegitimizes Whiteness and honors the diversity of humankind.

As 2020 comes to a close, consider the reckoning that it brought, and be reminded— as a friend recently told me: You have the power to produce a new heaven, and a new earth. Knowing this, what might 2021 look like? What will you say? What will you do?



## RESOURCES FROM THE RACIAL HEALING, JUSTICE, AND RECONCILIATION MINISTRY NETWORK

### **CATHEDRAL POETRY NIGHT - THE VIDEO**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yz78usxscxM&feature=youtu.be>

Cathedral Poetry night was a powerful and moving testimony to both the pain of racism and the hope of reconciliation. Here’s the link to music and poetry reading by two extraordinary artists.

### **Whitewashing the Great Depression:**

*How the preeminent photographic record of the period excluded people of color from the nation’s self-image* By Sarah Boxer, *The Atlantic*, December 2020

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2020/12/whitewashing-the-great-depression/616936/>

Although the photographers who worked for the Farm Security Administration (FSA) took many pictures of people of color—in the streets, in the fields, out of work—the Great Depression’s main victims, as Americans came to visualize them, were white. And this collective portrait has contributed to the misbegotten idea, still current, that the soul of America, the real American type, is rural and white.