

Disrupting Racism: Next Steps by Anita Coleman, Ph.D.

2018 Churchwide Gathering, Presbyterian Women

Sat. Aug. 5, 2018, 1:45 – 3:00 pm and 3:30 – 4:45 pm

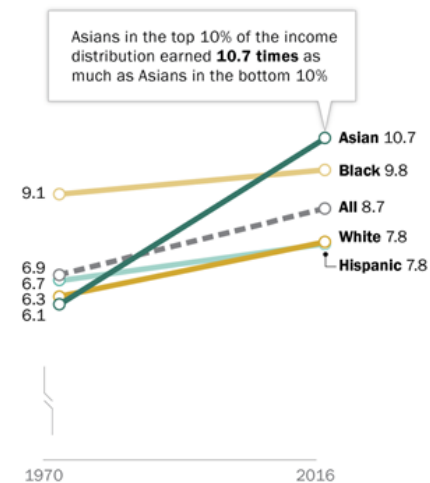
Scripture: Luke 4: 16 - 21 and Matthew 6: 9 - 13 (NRSV)

Our discussion takes its shape from a recent book: *Rise, Shine, Be Woke* by Anita Coleman, Stephanie Patterson, Francena Willingham, Ash Coleman, Susan Skoglund, Sharon Wakamoto, and Marvella Lambright. 7 voices from different generations, 4 women leading edge Boomers, a Gen X woman, an immigrant woman, and a young Millennial American, write about being Black, White, and Other, in middle class America. The Immigration Act of 1965 made the USA more diverse; along with renegade capitalism, it is also shifting the power balance, increasing racism, and injustices. Euro-Americans are now the majority-minority in half a dozen states, income inequality increased most among Asian Americans from 1970-2016, and suburbanites are the new face of homelessness in America because of wage uncertainties, housing shortages, and classism. Confronting privilege, decentering whiteness, and exposing colorism are critical steps for achieving racial equity and the Beloved Community, Jesus' kin-dom of God among us.

What the Research Shows

From lowest to highest: Income inequality in U.S. increased most among Asians from 1970 to 2016

Ratio of income at the 90th percentile to income at the 10th percentile



Note: Whites, blacks and Asians include only non-Hispanics and are single-race only in 2016. Hispanics are of any race. Asians include Pacific Islanders. Income is adjusted for household size. See Methodology for details.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1970 decennial census and 2016 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

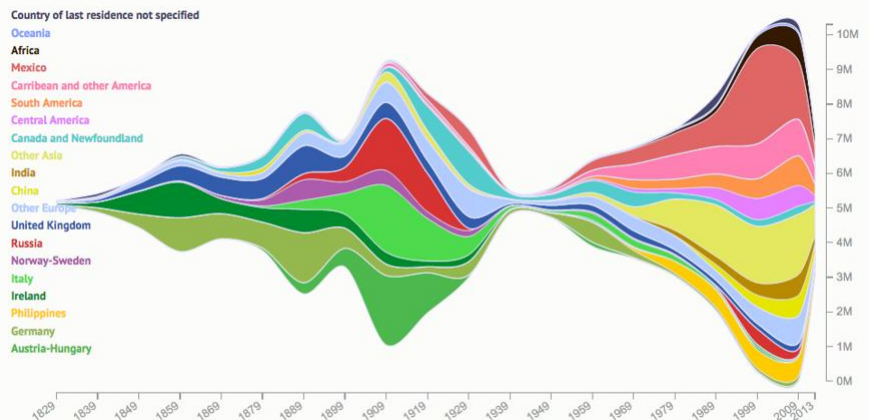
"Income Inequality in the U.S. Is Rising Most Rapidly Among Asians"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

1) **Misbehavior in school can pay off for white, but not black students** (The Economic Value of Breaking Bad: How Misbehavior in School Pays Off for Some Kids, Brown Center Chalkboard, 2015)

2) **...the majority of students in public schools are students of color and only 18 percent of our teachers are teachers of color.** (John King, The State of Racial Disparity in the Educator Workforce. 2016.)

3) **200 Years of Immigration to the USA**
(<http://insightfulinteraction.com/immigration200years.html>)



CALL TO ACTION: RISE, SHINE, BE WOKE

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Anti-racist Rule & Actions (examples of how people are actively practicing anti-racism):

Golden rule: Identify a person the way she or he asks to be identified. **Actions:** Advocacy; Active Listening; Activism; Ally; Civic Engagement; Christian Witnessing; Cultural Humility; Lifelong Learning; Reconciliation; Reparation; Solidarity (see also Eight Steps To End Racism).

Link Learning to Action: What is a specific way in which you can apply or turn into action what you've heard today? The action may be a daily practice or strategy that helps you be woke, disrupt racism in your sphere of influence, increase engagement across racial communities, etc. For more ideas please consult the GA Overtures and Notes and Resources below.

Anti-racism Related Overtures Passed by GA 223 (2018) (full text in #3 Notes):

- 1) On Recognizing the Reverend Henry Highland Garnet's Prophetic Voice for Today;
- 2) Advocacy Committee for **Racial Ethnic Concerns Name Changes to Racial Equity Advocacy** Committee;
- 3) A Resolution to Respond to Disparities Experienced by Black Women and Girls;
- 4) A Gospel from St Louis: Lessons from Congregations Seeking Racial and Economic Justice;
- 5) Declare an Imperative for the Reformation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in being a Transformative Church in This Intercultural Era; with **Eight Steps to End Racism**
- 6) Racism, Truth, and Reconciliation Special Committee;
- 7) On Developing a Letter to Accompany the Confession of Belhar;
- 8) On Adopting the "Letter from Birmingham City Jail," written by the Rev. Dr. MLK Jr., as a Contemporary Statement of Faith;
- 9) On Renewing Our Call to Promote Environmental Justice;
- 10) On Responding to Environmental Racism;
- 11) The Earth Is the Lord's—Not Ours to Ruin: Priorities for a New Moral Era;
- 12) On the Challenge of Being Black in the PC (USA);
- 13) Responding to Racist Nationalism; and
- 14) Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy Self-Study.

Notes and Resources:

- 1) Anti-racism Digital Library, accessed July 27, 2018, <http://endracism.info/>. See especially [Presbyterian Women](#) & [Intercultural Community PC \(USA\)](#) Collections.
- 2) Growing a Personal Anti-racist Voice and Identity, *Anti-Racism Digital Library*, accessed July 27, 2018, <https://sacred.omeka.net/items/show/232>.
- 3) 223rd General Assembly PC(USA): Anti-racism, *Anti-Racism Digital Library*, accessed July 27, 2018, <https://sacred.omeka.net/items/show/241>

Invitation to Contribute to the Anti-racism Digital Library

Consider writing and sharing your anti-racism story, art, photos as a form of Christian witnessing. Use the Contribute an Item form: <https://sacred.omeka.net/contribution>

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