



## **Report from gathering of BIPOC leaders and members of the Oregon-Idaho Conference May 27, 2021**

The meeting was called after an initial meeting organized by Laurie Day to look at bringing Anti - Racism legislation to the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference as a result of priorities set by Bishop. Participants of the meeting were BIPOC leaders and members of the Oregon-Idaho Conference.

We met on Thursday May 27, 2021 on Zoom.

We went through a process as outlined and led by Leroy Barber.

- What would you like to put on the table for the Conference to do Anti- racism work? Everyone was invited to put things on the table.
- Was there anything you would like to add a “yes and” to emphasize what you heard?
- Leroy read back what he heard the group articulating for input, and to see if there was consensus and there was.
- Leroy explained the process used in his organizing training that was carried over from the civil rights movement and that is the naming of two things:
  - What is the Core lie?
  - What is the Spiritual truth?

For example: The core lie they were fighting in the civil rights movement was that Black people were not fully human. The Spiritual truth to combat the lie was that we are all created in the image of God.

We then went onto name the “core lie” and “spiritual truth” as it exists within Oregon -Idaho and GNW.

### **Core Lie:**

**We are not enough as we are. We are somehow broken. We need to be fixed, managed, or taken care of.**

*We are seen as not worthy, good, and only welcomed when it benefits white system. We have been told that we are not good by white people in managing finances and ourselves. We cannot be trusted.*

### **Spiritual Truth:**

**The truth of scripture and our theological tradition has taught us that we are more than enough. We are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus. Jesus has proclaimed us worthy recognizing us as we are.**

**Therefore, to combat the core lie and living into the Spiritual truth we insist on the following to be included in legislation:**

*The Oregon Idaho Conference has claimed it is progressive and inclusive while knowingly excluding BIPOC folks and creating a culture of fear while lacking white accountability for harmful processes, structures, and behavior.*

More action and less statements, therefore we demand the following action:

We need reparations in the form of funding that is controlled by and spoken into by BIPOC folks.

Richer ordination process that is culturally relevant, not based upon assimilation

More inclusive cabinet and committees that oversee finances

Fair wages and education

More Resources available in home languages

Follow up on keeping white accountability

There is a culture of fear for BIPOC pastors and leaders in the systems which leads to lack of true input into many situations where racism is present. Do no harm must begin to include racism in its practical understanding and teaching.

A broader view of Inclusion to include race and culture.

Pastoral training across the board to gain deeper understanding of race and culture.

In closing BIPOC leaders “ARE READY TO RUN” the conference is not. A BIPOC led agenda when it comes to anti- racism work is a necessity. We want to set the agenda. We don't need the conference to start initiatives and programs for us, we can/will start our own with conference resources

\*\*\*\* This work did reach a consensus by the BIPOC leaders that attended, and because of its nature is submitted as a community to protect any results of fragility that could be aimed at those who gave input.