

SEYM Zoom Worship Sharing

August 8, 2020

Quotes and Queries on Racism

Contributed by the SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism

Quotes:

1. “ I remember when Beth, a white woman at my Quaker meeting, whispered to me something like ‘This is a really white Christian program, isn’t it?’ She made it known that she wanted to talk with me about race. I answered and from there, years later, we have an ongoing healing racism working group that raises consciousness about racism within our meeting and is organizing to end mass incarceration. Sometimes it has been messy, but we have hung in there through the mess. The result is far better than if we had played it fake.” (Dr. Amanda Kemp. **Say the Wrong Thing**, 2016)
2. “Central Committee [governing board of Friends General Conference (FGC)] resolves that in all FGC decision-making processes beginning now with the FY 19 budget, each body shall answer the following query with respect to each decision, ‘How does this decision support FGC in its goal to transform into an actively anti-racist faith community?’ “ (**Friends General Conference Central Committee minute**. October 2018)
3. “This is a time for repentance and transformation. Quakers are called to live ‘in the virtue of that Life and Power that takes away the occasion for all wars.’ We understand this to mean that those of us who have been and are complicit in the systems and practices that create and maintain white supremacy- and its myriad forms of violence- are called with Divine Guidance to do the work to understand that complicity and to end it.” (**New England Yearly Meeting**. June 5, 2020)

Queries:

1. How am I being called to live differently with regard to the social construct of race and the systems that perpetuate white dominance in the United States?
2. When, if ever, have I had a difficult conversation with someone about race? What was the outcome?
3. What do I need to make it possible for me to take my next step in being part of creating an anti-racist Quaker faith community?

