

Trinity Institute 2016 (TI2016) – Listen for a Change: Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice

“Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.” —Ephesians 4:25

Core Message: **Trinity Institute 2016 is an action-oriented theological conference for racial justice, held at Hope Lutheran Church.** This is a matter of life or death; we can’t afford to stay silent and tacitly accept the (mostly) invisible systems that support inequalities, create suffering, and deny human dignity. Rather, we must have an open dialogue about how systemic racism is hurting us and what we can do to create change—a process that starts with listening. TI2016 recognizes that many of us avoid conversations about race because they’re difficult, uncomfortable, or risk being perceived as prejudiced. Instead, the conversations in TI2016 will be learning opportunities: chances to talk skillfully and with less apprehension about charged issues with people who might have differing perspectives. These life-giving conversations will teach us more about the racial issues of our time, including structural racism, mass incarceration, and policy change. TI2016 brings action-oriented theologians and thought leaders, including Nicholas Kristof, Anna Deavere Smith, and Emilie Townes, to provide you with inspiration and ideas you can use in your community to make a positive impact.

TI2016 takes place in New York City and is streamed at partner sites around the world January 21-23, 2016.

KEY MESSAGE	SPEAKERS	WHO IT’S FOR	WHY THIS TOPIC	WHAT TO EXPECT
	<p>TI2016 features leading activists, theologians, authors, and experts on racial justice, including: Nicholas Kristof, Anna Deavere Smith, Emilie Townes, Michael Curry, Michele Norris, Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, Victor Rios, and Kelly Brown Douglas.</p> <p>Speaker bios found at www.trinitywallstreet.org/trinity-institute/2016/speakers</p>	<p>TI2016 is for anyone who’s interested in an action-oriented theological perspective on racial justice.</p>	<p>This topic is one of the most important of our time. In today’s society, many systems of discrimination thrive because they remain invisible to those benefitting from them.</p> <p>As children of God, we are called to wake up, and to listen up. People of faith know the power of truth telling: speaking truth not only to those in positions of power, but first to ourselves.</p> <p>TI2016 presents conversation as a learning opportunity: a chance to engage in deep listening and truth telling, and as a result develop the skills to create change within a troubled system. By having these difficult conversations, we can build the underlying skills and willingness to address the racial tensions of our time.</p>	<p>In addition to viewing webcasts of keynote speeches, you’ll have the chance to participate in local reflection groups, enhancing your ability to discuss racial issues in positive, life-giving ways. You’ll leave with new skills, ideas, and inspiration to implement change for racial justice in your community.</p> <p>Reflection groups are built around the experience of conversation as a learning process. TI holds that skills such as deep listening and understanding are learnable, not immutable, and that armed with such knowledge, you can create a ripple effect of positive change in your community.</p>
SUPPORTING MESSAGE		<p>It’s not just for clergy – anyone can attend and participate in follow-up conversations as a community.</p>	<p>Racial discrimination in the U.S. penal system is rampant, and legalized silence perpetuates the problem. 75 percent of people in state prison for drug conviction are people of color although blacks and whites see and use drugs at roughly the same rate. In NYS, 94 percent of those imprisoned for a drug offense are people of color.</p>	<p>TI brings people together. You’ll get a chance to share your experiences in reflection groups, and meet up with old friends and make new ones at [insert hospitality plans, such as coffee hour, here].</p>
SUPPORTING MESSAGE		<p>TI2016 is for those who are dedicated to or interested in learning more about striving for racial justice.</p>	<p>A Pew study found that in the wake of the police shooting of an unarmed black teen in Ferguson, Mo., 80 percent of blacks said that “this case raises important issues about race,” but only 44 percent of whites agreed, and 47 percent of whites said “race is getting more attention than it deserves.”</p>	<p>If your group is participating live with the NYC conference, you can submit questions that may be addressed by the keynote speakers.</p>
SUPPORTING MESSAGE			<p>Trinity Institute holds that many people struggle with talking about race yet believe thoughtful, informed, and inclusive discussions about this topic can create real change and even</p>	<p>TI2016 consists of opening worship on Thursday night, followed by two full days of talks, panels, reflection groups, and networking, culminating in Sunday morning</p>

			save lives.	worship.
SUPPORTING MESSAGE				TI provides your church with plenty of adult faith formation material, beyond the conference, that can be used all year long.
SUPPORTING MESSAGE				Trinity Institute is an annual conference in its 45th year that equips clergy and laypersons for imaginative and catalytic leadership. The conference is sponsored by Trinity Wall Street, an Episcopal parish in New York City.

Call to Action: Register today at Hope Lutheran 352-489-5511