



# Race and Grace Dialogues

The Faith In Action Committee and the Racial Justice Work Group is sponsoring a weekend long facilitator training to lead small groups in 2-hour discussions which will be offered over a 5 week period, between members of Westminster and Liberty Community Church, called Race and Grace dialogues.

The purpose of these small groups will be to engage in what may be some uncomfortable conversations. White people must learn to understand the anger, the hurt and injustice experienced by people of color. It is not up to them to “fix it” for us.

We will learn to talk to one another as individuals and tackle some tough questions, while building empathy, trust and some friendships along the way.

**Westminster Presbyterian Church Room 209-210**

**Friday, October 27 5– 9pm**

**Saturday October 28, 9- 5 pm**

**Sunday, October 29 Attend 10:30 worship**

Facilitators:



Vivian Jenkins Nelsen

**Vivian Jenkins Nelsen**, a member of Westminster and its Session. is the co-founder (with her late husband George) of INTER-RACE, a diversity think tank located at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. She is nationally recognized as a diversity practitioner, trainer, planner and researcher. Vivian speaks to thousands of people each year on leadership, change, and diversity. Nelsen serves as a consultant to CEO's of Fortune 500 companies. Corporate clients include United Health Group, The St. Paul Companies, The Federal Reserve Bank, The Mayo Clinic, Children's Hospitals and Clinics. She worked with senior executives of major international companies, such as Scandinavian Airlines at the University of Lund Business School in Sweden. She serves many organizations as a planner, facilitator, trainer and board member. Nelsen teaches and publishes on group facilita-



Nancy Rodenberg,  
MSW, MIA, PhD.  
Prof. of Social Work  
Augsburg University

**Nancy Rodenberg** has over 30 years experience in social work practice, teaching, and research on diversity and inequality. She has taught diversity and inequality courses to both MSW and BSW students, developed global education and diversity curriculum programs, and served on boards or commissions in community, nonprofit and educational settings. She was a leader in the development of a funded project with social work colleagues and The INTER-RACE Institute to increase MSW students' cultural competence by participating in facilitated, intentionally diverse dialogue. The MSW Dialogue Project has served over 400 students since 2005.



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Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Liberty Community Church



Mary Hess, PhD

**Mary Hess** joined the Luther Seminary faculty in July of 2000. Hess received her B.A. degree in American Studies in 1985 from Yale University in New Haven, Conn. She received her M.T.S. degree in 1992 from Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. In 1998, she received her Ph.D. in religion and education from Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Mass.

Mary Hess has taught **Christian Education and Dismantling Racism** for a number of years. This course analyzes institutionalized racism and proposes a series of frameworks from within Christian Education for engaging and dismantling racism, and for supporting multicultural congregational learning. Students are required to participate in an intensive three day workshop on dismantling racism as part of the course.



Theo Page

**Theo Page** is a Clinical Social Worker with degrees from Metropolitan State University and Augsburg University. His passions focus on end of life issues and grief and loss. He is very familiar with all mental health aspects of the human condition.

Working for the State of MN equipped his clinical practice with knowledge of the commitment process in MN. He has taught Master Social Work candidates at Augsburg University for a number of years. Theo is very skilled in the principles of inter-group dialogue (IGD) and is sought to both teach and consult on IGD.

**Questions? RSVP to Vivian Jenkins Nelsen**  
612.867.2244 or [vjn@inter-raceinstitute.org](mailto:vjn@inter-raceinstitute.org)

