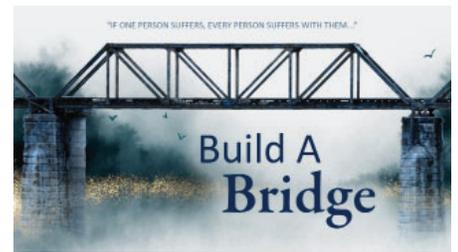


NEXT STEPS



Week of March 14, 2021

Build A Bridge: God At Work

Matthew 9:35-38

Next Steps for Racial Reconciliation

In recent months, many of us have felt a renewed call to work toward a more just, loving, equitable society: to act as God's hands and feet in our world. If you are ready to take some first steps... or some next steps... on the journey toward racial reconciliation, we invite you to join the POP for Justice community and walk side by side with one another. We know that each of us finds ourselves in our own, individual place on this journey of introspection, prayer, listening, learning, and thoughtful action.

The action items we suggest below are designed to be practical opportunities that you can try right away—this week—to learn about cultures and life experiences that are different from your own or to use your voice to amplify voices that are calling out for justice and peace. Some of these next steps will be interesting and maybe even fun, but some may make you a little uncomfortable... and that's okay. Discomfort isn't necessarily a bad thing; it can be a sign that we are growing. As we take our next steps, our discomfort reminds us to focus on our true goal, which is not maintaining our own comfort, but instead lifting up those who suffer injustice and joining our voices with their eloquent calls to action. We invite you to join us each week in prayerfully selecting next steps that both interest you and push you just a little.

Small Step:

Feel like some delicious take-out this week? Try out a new restaurant—one owned by people of color. You can find great local options on this list of Black-Owned Restaurants in Minneapolis or use the smartphone app EatOkra to find restaurants anywhere in the USA, including several in Burnsville.

List of Black-Owned Restaurants in Minneapolis:

<https://www.travelcoterie.com/a-list-of-black-owned-restaurants-in-minneapolis/>

EatOkra app:

eatokra.com

Medium Step:

Whenever you buy something for yourself or as a gift, ask yourself whether you can get it from a Black-owned or People of Color-owned business instead of a large corporation. You can easily search businesses using the search engine WeBuyBlack or this list of 180 Black Businesses to Support.

WeBuyBlack search engine:

<https://webuyblack.com/>

180 Black Businesses to Support:

<https://nymag.com/strategist/article/black-owned-businesses-support-shop.html>

Large Step:

Check on the practices of the businesses you frequent most often: your grocery store, favorite clothing stores, bank, gym, etc. Do they have a non-discrimination statement on their website? Has it been updated in the last year? Have they made a commitment and demonstrated through their actions that they are not just "against" discrimination, but also working "for" positive change in their business practices and community relationships? If not, let them know that consumers care about equitable business practices and ask them to take action.

Visit popmn.org/justice for more information.