Merging Waters United Church

INTERCULTURAL SERIES January 21, 2024

Weaving God's Tapestry

Tapestries weave together many different threads. So also with intercultural ministry. It is a weaving together of different people, gifts, Christianities, communities, histories, theologies, ways of engaging the world, experiences of God, and so much more. Each thread is important as it makes the tapestry stronger and more beautiful. So it is with each person and community. If we see each as equally important, equally children of God it shapes our relationships.

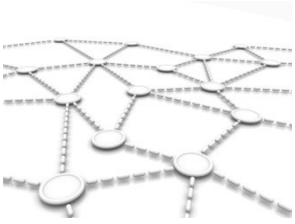
Reading: *[God] has filled them with skill to do every kind of work done by an artisan or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and in fine linen, or by a weaver—by any sort of artisan or skilled designer.*

Exodus 35:35

Reading: *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'*

John 13:34-35

1) **Welcome**
2) **Acknowledgement of the land**
3) **Mapping Ourselves**



"My Grandfather said he knew what people we came from. I reeled off all the names I knew. Yorbura? Ibo? Ashanti? Mandigo? He said no to all of them, saying that he would know it if he heard it. I was thirteen. I was anxious for him to remember."

-- Dionne Brand in "A Map to the Door of No Return"

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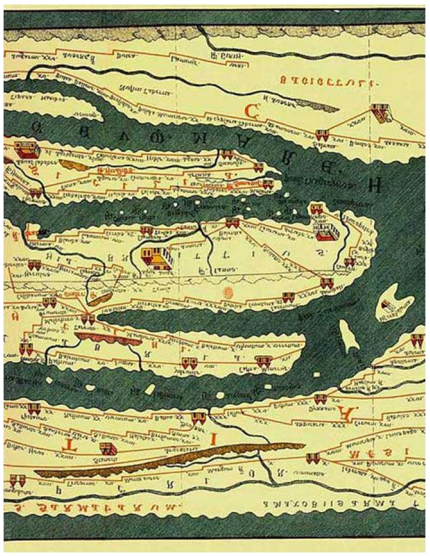
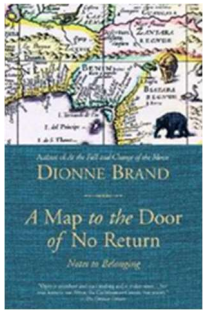
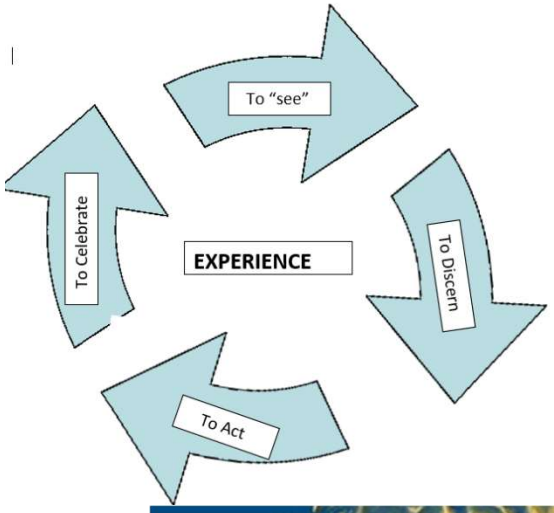
A map is a meaningful way to discover more about who makes up this learning group. Listen and respond to the instructions as we explore more about who we are and where we come from.





"The early Romans drew maps based solely on itineraries, not attesting to science or geographic study. Simply maps of where they were going. So that a map looked like a graph of horizontal lines of roads heading to a destination." -- Dionne Brand in "A Map to the Door of No Return"

HERMENEUTIC CIRCLE – process for making meaning



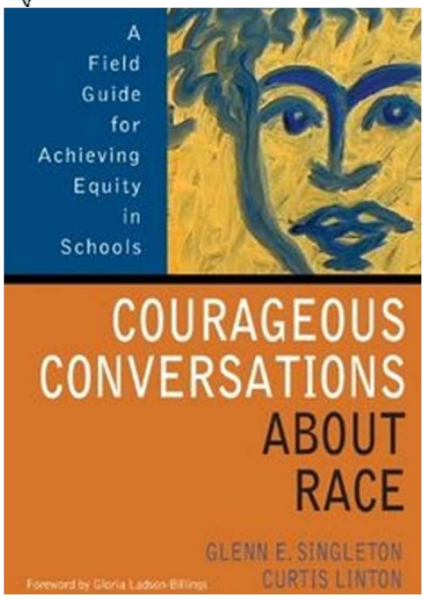
4) OVERVIEW

5) LEARNING AND COMMUNITY

6) THE BINDER

7) AGREEMENTS TO SUPPORT LISTENING AND LEARNING

8) COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE



Four Agreements

1) Stay Engaged
2) Experience Discomfort
3) Speak Your Truth
4) Expect and Accept Non-Closure

Resourced from: DUIM (Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry) Canadian Council of Churches