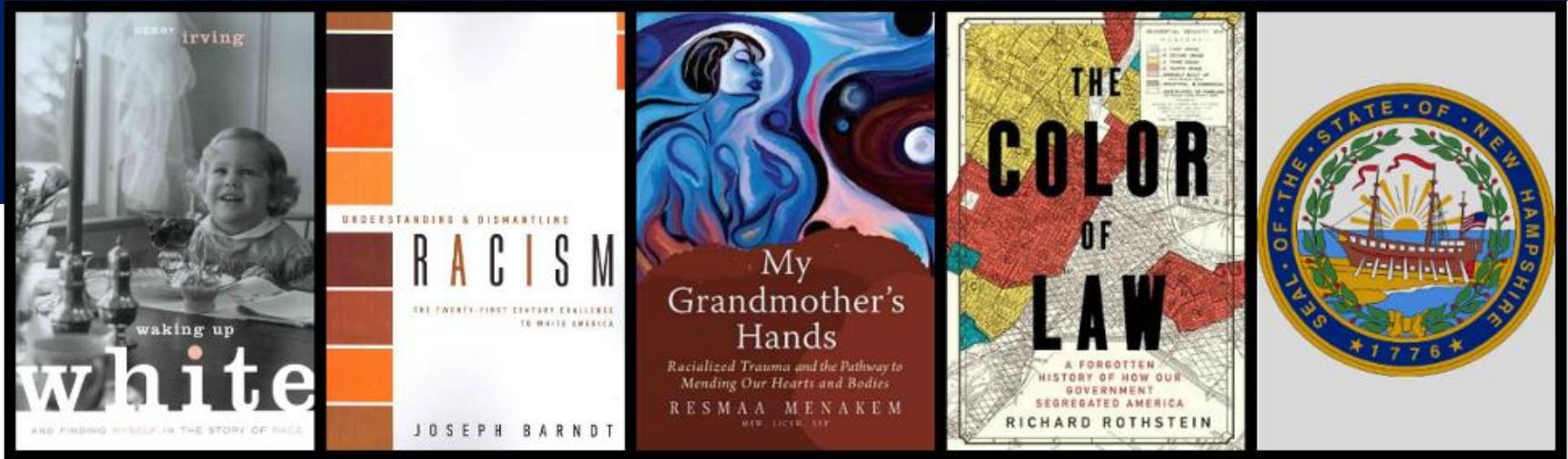


Holding Courageous Community Conversations Across Difference

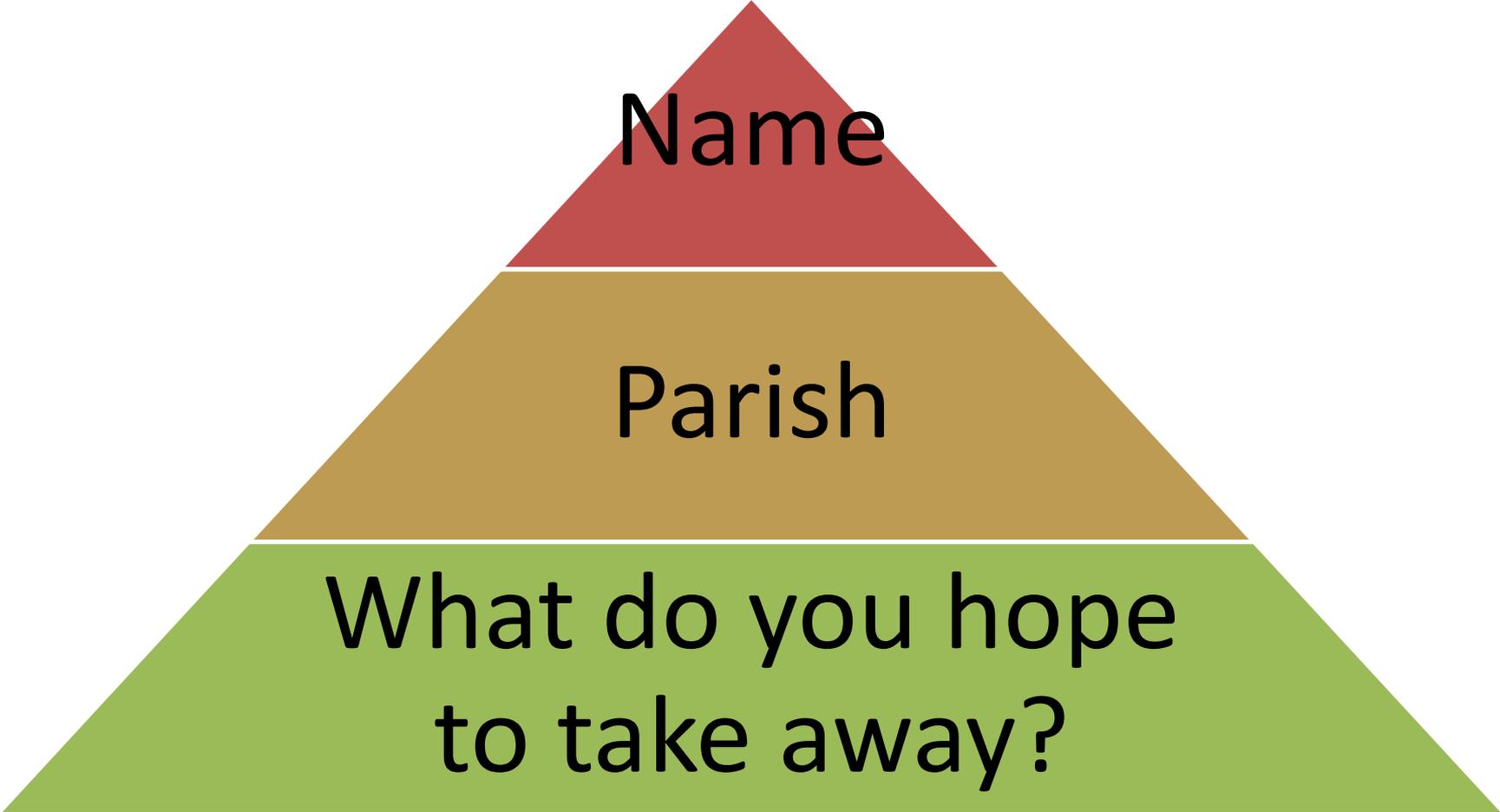
*Goffstown Courageous Community Conversations:
Can We Talk About Race?*



Mr. James McKim and Dr. Deborah McCarter



Who are We?



Name

Parish

What do you hope
to take away?

Objectives

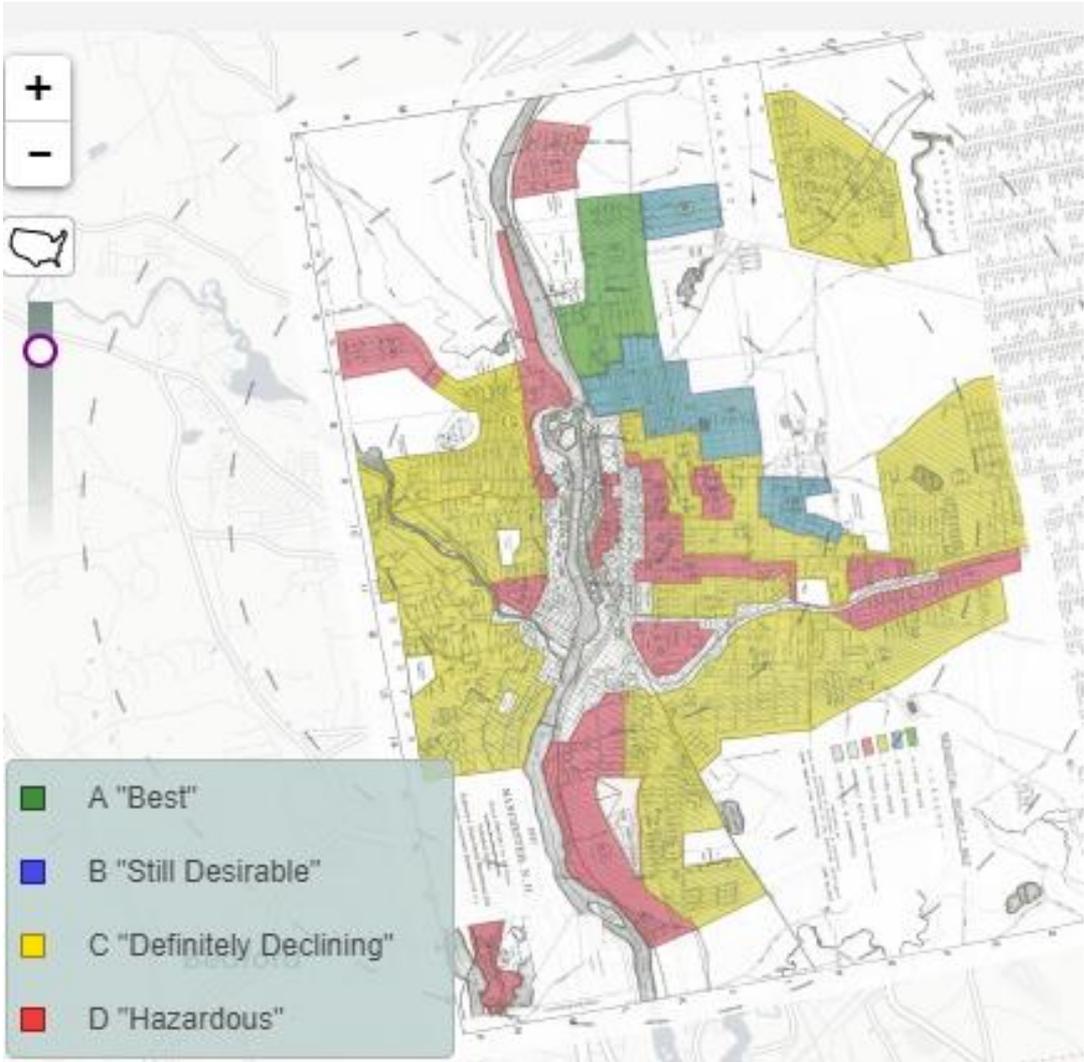
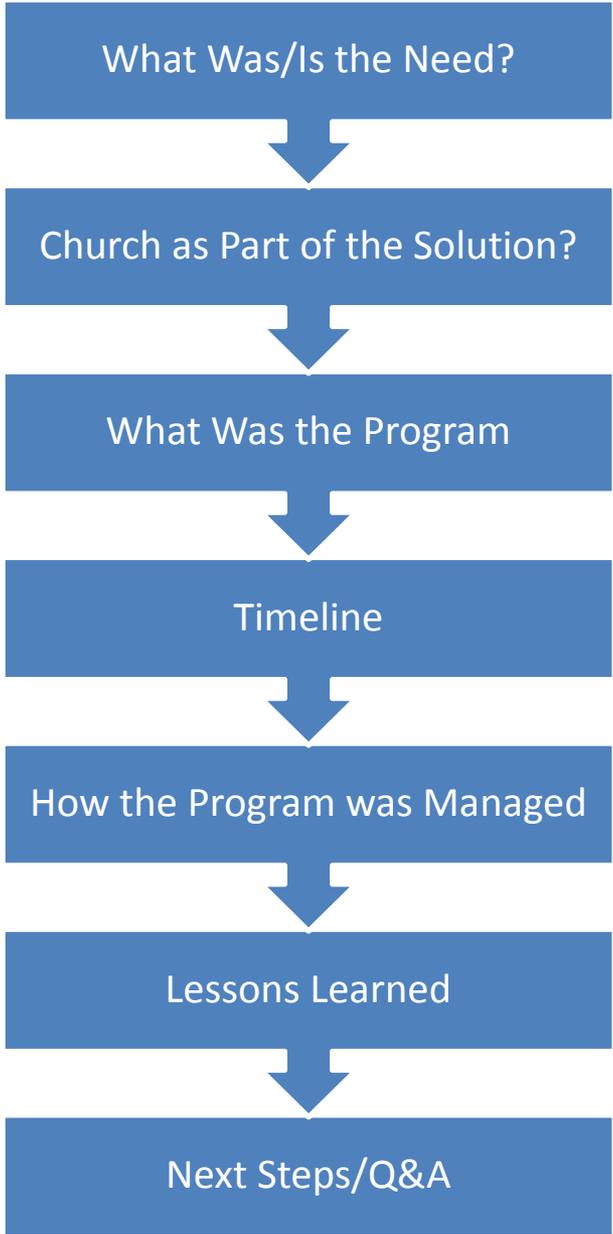
Importance of having conversations in the a local community across difference

How to form community partnerships

How to put together the program

Build a community of practitioners

Agenda



What Was/Is the Need?

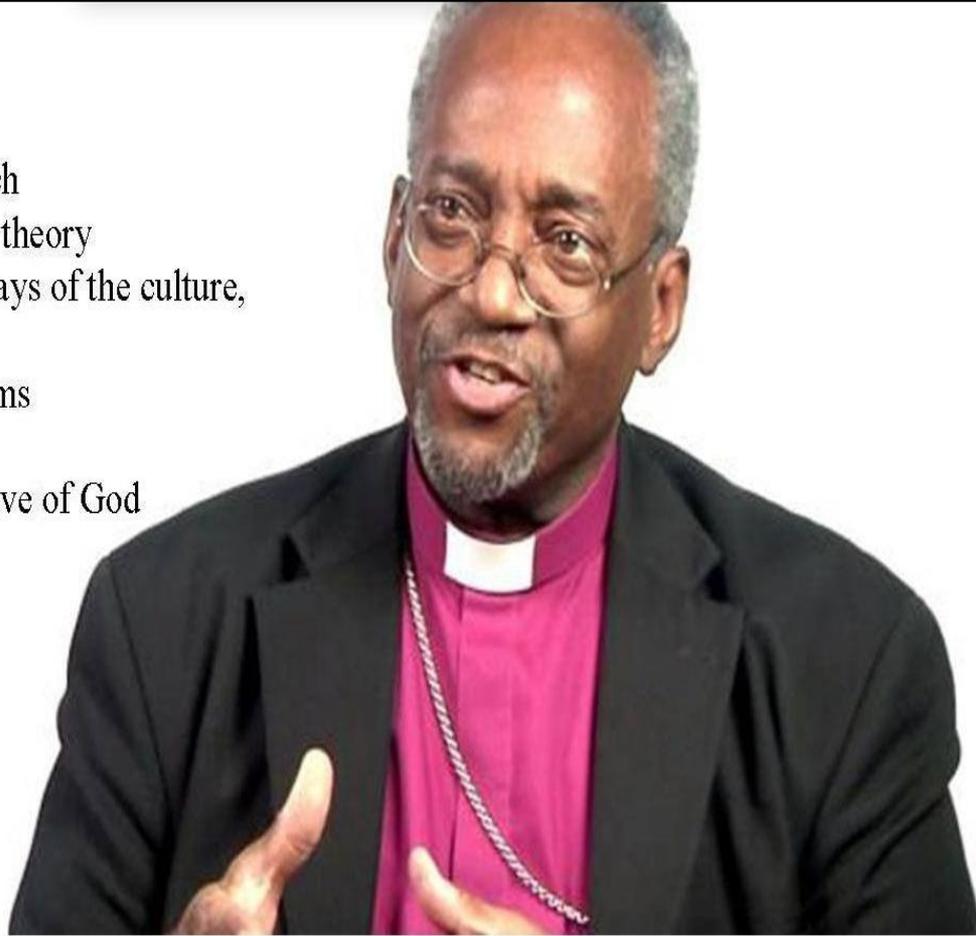
- Personal Stress & Frustration
- Community Requests
- Events in NH
 - Claremont
 - Dover
 - Goffstown



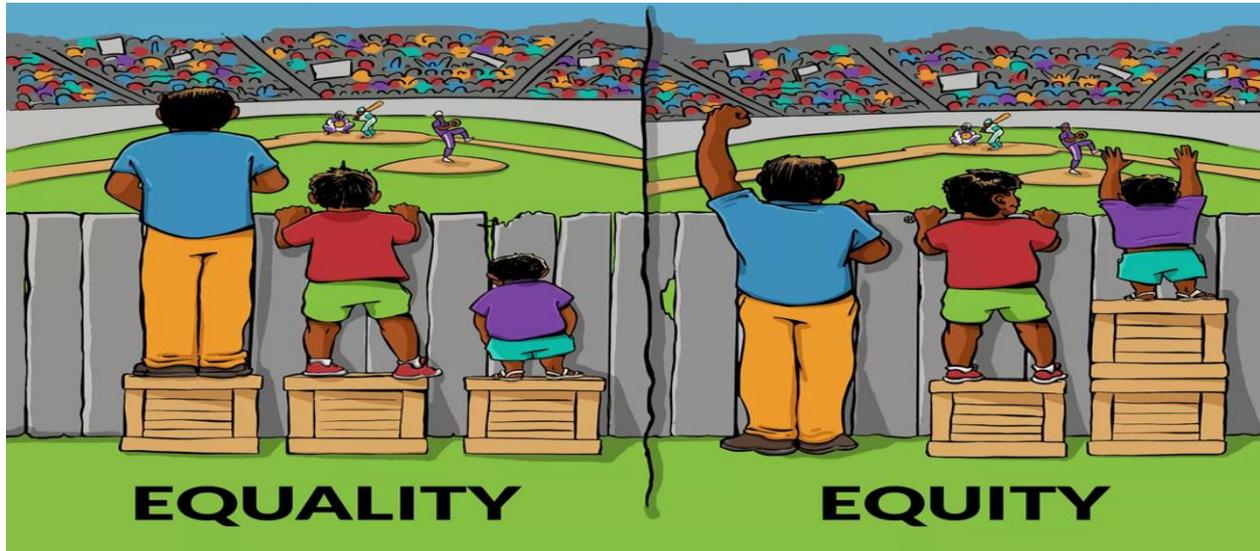
Direction of the Church

“Our commitment to be an inclusive church is not based on a social theory or capitulation to the ways of the culture, but on our belief that the outstretched arms of Jesus on the cross are a sign of the very love of God reaching out to us all.”

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry
January 2016



Church as Part of the Solution



The church is the body of Christ—a group of people unified ([Ephesians 4:1-3](#)) under Christ, who represent and reflect Him to the world ([1 Corinthians 12:12-17](#)).

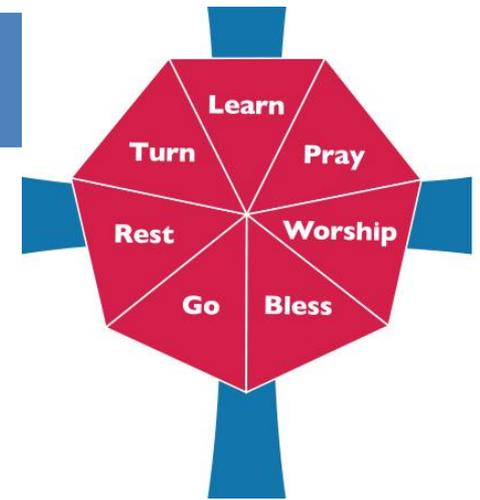
The purpose of the church is also to provide a place to "break bread." Often, this means just eating together and living life together ([Acts 2:42](#)).

The purpose of the church is to be the believer's spiritual family. It is through the church that God takes people with different personalities and gifts, unifies them as a single body, and equips them to care for each other and reach the world.

The Way of Love & BBC

Individual – The Way of Love

- **TURN** Pause, listen, and choose to follow Jesus
- **LEARN** Reflect on Scripture each day
- **PRAY** Dwell intentionally with God each day
- **WORSHIP** Gather in community weekly
- **BLESS** Share faith and unselfishly give and serve
- **GO**: Cross boundaries, listen deeply and live like Jesus
- **REST** Receive the gift of God's grace, peace, and restoration

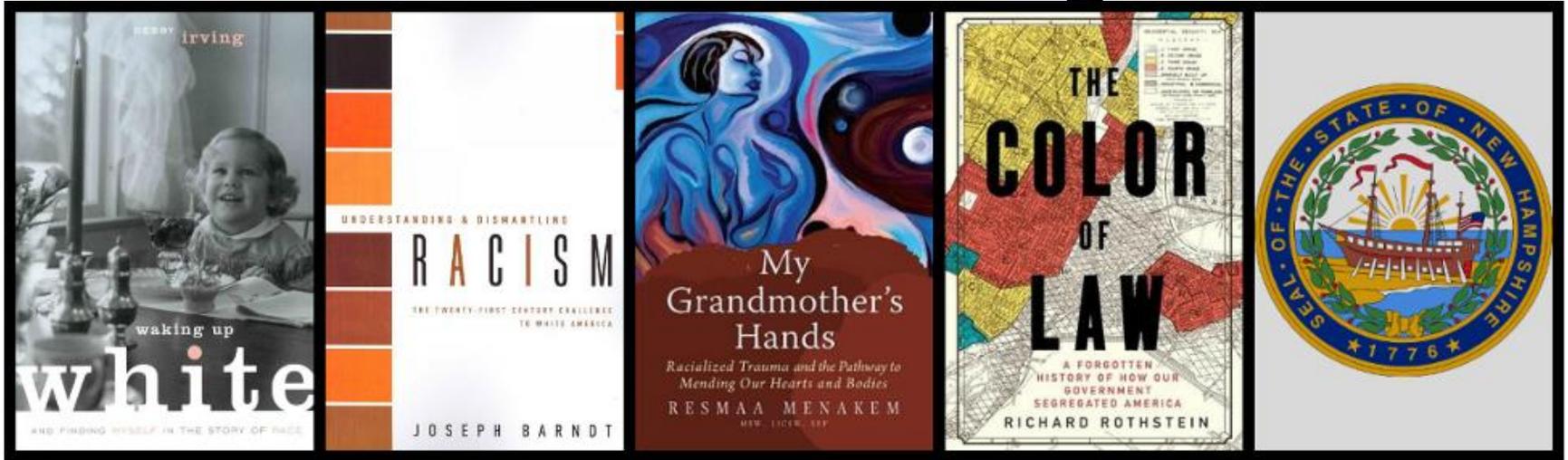


Communal – Becoming Beloved Community

- **TELL THE TRUTH** about our past
- **PROCLAIM THE DREAM** of what we could be
- **PRACTICE THE WAY** of Love
- **REPAIR THE BREACH** in relationships, institutions and structures

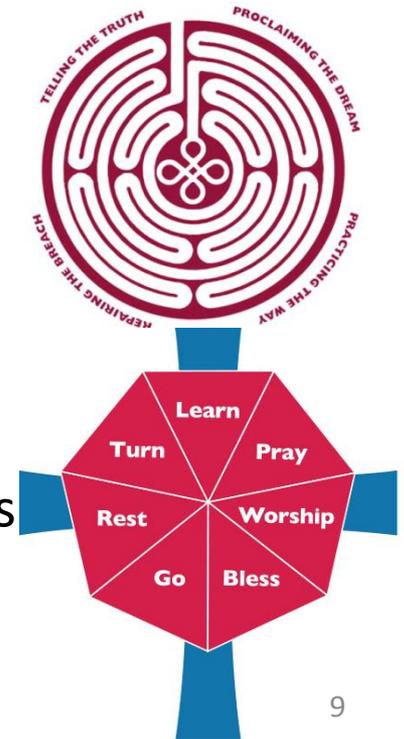


What Was the Program?



Based on

- General Convention resolution 2005-C019 and 2015-A182
- The Episcopal Church Becoming Beloved Community Long-Term Commitment
- Books, lectures, exhibits
- Inward & Outward Work
 - Inward: TURN Pause, listen, and choose to follow Jesus
 - GO: Cross boundaries, listen deeply and live like Jesus



Conversation Format

- Introductions
- Conversation Norms
- Joint Definition (Video)
- Experience sharing (Discussion)
- Local Visioning
- Wrap-up



Mellody Thompson TED 2014

Sample Discussion Conversation

Questions

- When did you first notice your race?
- How does race impact your life or work? Your community?

- For what areas of our society do we want/need to infuse those ideas like color braveness and create a vision?

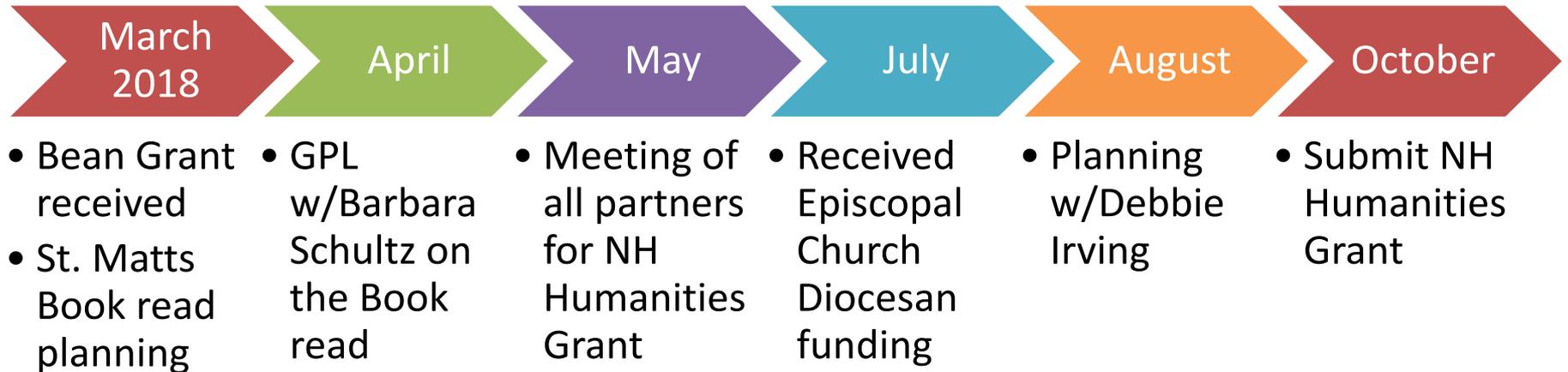


- What local institutions, laws, systems need to be examined?
- Who need to be involved in the change?

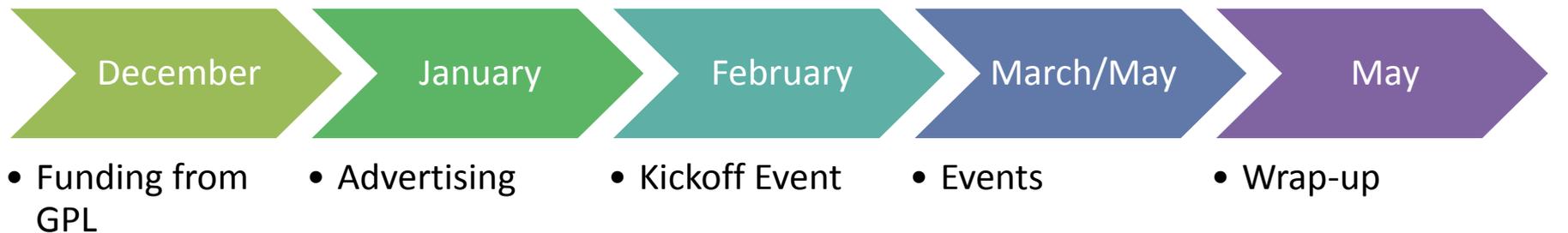
- Racism causes trauma for aggressor and victim. How do you deal with trauma?
- What in our culture needs changing so kids don't attempt lynching?

Timeline

Planning/Fundraising



Implementation



How was it managed/Partners

Budget

- Revenue
 - SAC Departments/Grants
 - Episcopal Church Reconciliation Commission
 - NH Humanities Council
 - Goffstown Public Library
 - GSOP (in-kind)
- Expenses
 - Speaker Fee
 - Lecture hall
 - Conversation spaces
 - Food
 - Books
 - Poster printing

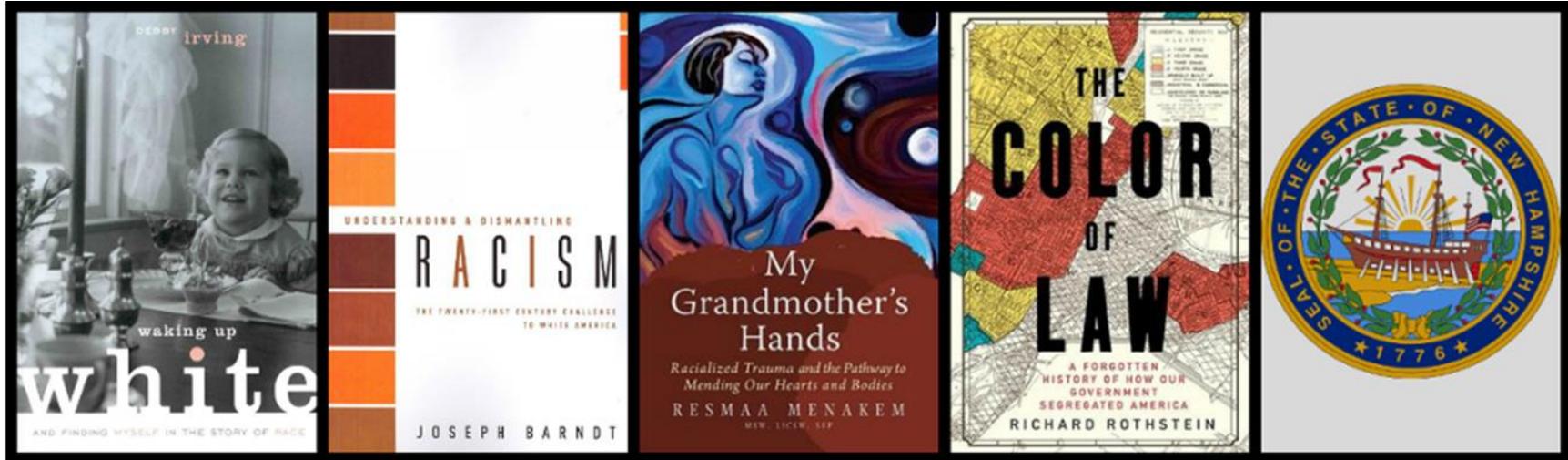
Project Plan/Management

- Planning meetings
- Funding request submissions
- Community Leader invitations
- Registration system
- Coordinate with speakers/interpreters
- Reserve event locations & security
- Order food

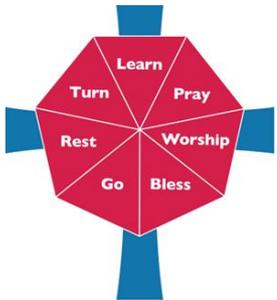
Lessons Learned

- Partnerships are critical
- People are willing to address the issue
- There were no complaints!
- Value of intergenerational dialog
 - Youth and adult both are interested
 - Need to reach out to parents and provide child-care
- Food is always a draw
- The way to approach this is as becoming a more welcoming community, not just “fixing a problem” that many people don’t think we have.

Summary/Next Steps



- Broaden scope to diversity
- Implicit Bias Training
- Meet after 5/22 event
- Help other communities have similar conversations



Results

- Increased awareness of the issue

- SAU employees all have the 4 books

- GHS administrators and some teachers have the 4 books

- GHS Summer Reading List contains 2 books which continue the conversation

- Approx. 500 people reached