

## **RACIAL JUSTICE BOOK GROUP**

### **ANNUAL REPORT, 2020**

Many of us have been touched by the racial injustices that we've seen over the past several years, but in 2020 - particularly in the aftermath of the George Floyd killing in Minneapolis - these events really hit us in the core of our faith. We felt we needed to educate ourselves on what has happened and is still happening to people of color in our country, and one way to do this is to educate ourselves by gathering information that we may not have been aware of.

We formed a book group in September 2020 to discuss some of the books on this subject, beginning with Ibram Kendi's "How to Be an Antiracist," which we discussed in two meetings in September and October. The second book – "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City" by Matthew Desmond – was chosen in November, and we discussed the first section on December 17. The next two sections will be discussed in 2021. We are maintaining a spreadsheet with a list and description of 13 books on the topic of Racial Justice, which we've sent to participants as possible further reading.

Our email list began with 14 participants and has expanded to 25. We've worked with Pastor Kelli Schmit at McFarland Lutheran Church, and she has in turn notified MLC parishioners about the book club. This is an ecumenical effort in which everyone who has an interest is welcome to join.