

Sacred Ground

A Film and Article Based Series on Race and Racism

Tuesdays 3:00 - 5:00 PM

January 9 - March 19, 2024

Led by Dorian McGlannan and Kathryn Rickert

Format: Hybrid (in-person and zoom)



Sacred Ground, a program from the Episcopal Church, deals with education around racial justice. While Sacred Ground circles have been around since 2018, the number of groups that existed grew exponentially following the murder of George Floyd in May of 2020. As of 2022, there have been over 2,100 circles and over 20,000 participants. It is still going strong. St. Augustine's group started in January of 2021 and we are now ready to begin another group.

Sacred Ground is a sensitive, prayerful resource that creates space for difficult, but respectful, dialogues on race and racism. It invites participants to walk back through history in order to peel away the layers that brought us to today, reflecting on family history and stories. It holds as a guiding star the vision of Beloved Community - where all people are honored and protected as beloved children of God, where we weep at one another's pain.

The program, which has 11 sessions, engages with films, written materials and the participants in the circle. Some of the documentary clips cannot be seen in any other setting. The commitment is anywhere from 3-5 hours a week, including the circle meeting times.

The initial impetus for Sacred Ground came from Katrina Brown who produced and directed the documentary *Traces of the Trade: A Story of the Deep North*. This powerful documentary deals with issues around slavery and Black history. The Sacred Ground program has sessions on a variety of people of color including Black, LatinX, Asian and Native American. For some of us in our circle, the history presented was largely unknown. All of us emerged from this program with a much richer understanding of the history and current issues regarding people of color. Our circle also enabled us to get to know each other better.

Sacred Ground is open to all, but it is particularly intended to help White people engage with each other and increase their knowledge base. White affinity groups allow White people to build a strong foundation for later interracial conversation and action.

If you are interested in joining our Sacred Ground group or want more information, please contact Dorian at dmcglannan5@gmail.com. We look forward to engaging with those who decide to enter into this challenging but rewarding program.