



## Race To Action: Examining, Unpacking, and Learning Anti-Racism Class Syllabus

**Facilitators:** Various facilitators - For questions please contact Rueben Martinez at [ruebenmartinez2@gmail.com](mailto:ruebenmartinez2@gmail.com) and Carol Foulke Mpoyo at [cjfm10@hotmail.com](mailto:cjfm10@hotmail.com).

**Class Dates:** Thursdays, July 30-October 15th | 7-9pm | Zoom

### **Course Description:**

Thank you for joining The Riverside Church's Education Commission and Anti-Racism Task Force for "Race To Action." This Small Group class will take place for 10 weeks online via Zoom on Thursday evenings. We will be considering what it means for our congregation and each of us to be "antiracist" in this watershed moment for our church and society. Our primary references will be "How to be an Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi, who is African American, and "White Fragility" by Robin Diangelo, who is white. **Our goal is not just knowledge, but also transformation.**

Multiracial teams will lead each week's discussion, seeking to hold a safe (if not always comfortable) space as we build a common vocabulary and understanding of the history of racism in the United States, of how white supremacy/privilege/fragility work, of how racism works in institutions (yes, even

churches), of how racism wounds and scars us all, and - most importantly - of how we can better "practice what we preach" at Riverside and become more strongly antiracist in both word and deed.

**Participants will be expected to come to all sessions, having completed the assigned reading, pen and notebook in hand for regular reflection and homework assignments.**

**Required Texts**

*How To Be An Anti Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi

*White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo

**Course Schedule and Reading Assignments**

<p><b>Class 1</b> <b>July 30</b></p>	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chapter 1 in both books</li> </ul>
<p><b>Class 2</b> <b>August 6</b></p>	<p>Foundations of White Supremacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Diangelo: Chapter 2 “Racism and White Supremacy”</li> <li>● Kendi: Chapters 2- 4 “Dueling Consciousness”, “Power” and “Biology”</li> </ul>
<p><b>Class 3</b> <b>August 13</b></p>	<p>Beliefs and Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Diangelo: Ch 3 and 4 “Racism After The Civil Rights Movement” and “How Does Race Shape The Lives of White People?”</li> <li>● Kendi: Chapters 5-7 “Ethnicity” “Body” and “Culture”</li> </ul>
<p><b>Class 4</b> <b>August 20</b></p>	<p>Binaries and Behaviors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Diangelo: Ch 5 and 6 “The Good/Bad Binary” and “Anti-Blackness”</li> <li>● Kendi: Ch 8 and 9 “Behavior” and “Color”</li> </ul>
<p><b>Class 5</b> <b>August 27</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Diangelo: Ch 7 and 8 “Racial Triggers For White People” and “The Result: White Fragility”</li> <li>● Kendi: Ch 10 and 11 “White” and “Black”</li> </ul>
<p><b>TWO WEEKS OFF</b></p>	<p><b>NO CLASS SEPT 3 OR SEPT 10</b></p>

<b>Class 6</b> <b>September 17</b>	Discussion Spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Diangelo: Ch 9 “White Fragility In Action”</li> <li>● Kendi: Ch 12 and 13 “Class” and “Space”</li> </ul>
<b>Class 7</b> <b>September 24</b>	Gender and Sexuality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kendi: Ch 14 and 15 “Gender” and “Sexuality”</li> </ul>
<b>Class 8</b> <b>October 1</b>	Courage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Diangelo: Ch 10 “White Fragility and The Rules of Engagement”</li> <li>● Kendi: Ch 16 “Failure”</li> </ul>
<b>Class 9</b> <b>October 8</b>	Success In Communicating and Understanding/Building Racial Stamina <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Diangelo: Ch 11 “White Woman’s Tears”</li> <li>● Kendi: Ch 17 “Success”</li> </ul>
<b>Class 10</b> <b>October 15</b>	Final Reflections and Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Diangelo: Ch 12 “Where Do We Go From Here?”</li> <li>● Kendi: Ch 18 “Survival”</li> </ul>

**Inclusive Language**

The Riverside Church is committed to a policy of inclusion in its life and mission. All members of the community are expected to communicate in language that reflects the equality of genders, openness to diverse cultural and theological perspectives, and sensitivity to one another’s images of God.

**Class Covenant**

BECAUSE WE VALUE OUR TIME TOGETHER, BECAUSE WE VALUE AND AFFIRM THE POSITIVE VALUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF DIFFERENT ETHNIC, RACIAL, CULTURAL AND GENDERS AND SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS REPRESENTED AMONG US, WE MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP AGREE:

1. **To enter this space with curiosity and humility.**

To “leave behind” cellphones and other distractions, and to mute/turn off video if an outside matter absolutely must be dealt with during class.

To value and respect privacy and therefore will keep personal information confidential, sharing ideas outside the group without attribution.

2. To encourage all questions, comments and responses and to allow all to contribute.

**To recognize that we are here to work on ourselves, not on others.**

To expect moments of discomfort, even high emotion, which, in work on racism, is often called “racial stress.” We will “breathe into” these moments, make a note of them for discussion at a designated “debriefing” time, and not use them (wittingly or unwittingly) to change the subject, call attention to ourselves or disrupt the discussion.

3. To be as brief as possible in our comments to allow for sharing time equitably. (**WAIT = WHY AM I TALKING?**)
4. To be intentional in listening actively, not interrupting others or engaging in cross-talk, and making space for each other.
5. To honor the opinions of others we disagree with, as valid and sincere, allowing for honesty and safety.
6. To speak personally and Use “I” statements.
7. To treat others with respect, caring and kindness as we seek to find truth and common ground.
8. To avoid repeating ourselves as a way of monopolizing and controlling the conversation.
9. To keep discussion on topic and seek to develop a sense of community with the group.