

Sacred Ground Session 3: Whose Land? Exploring Indigenous History (Draft 1)

Key resources for participants to view/read prior to Session 3: PBS Documentary “We Shall Remain”; Chapters 1 & 30 from “Waking up White” by Debby Irving

- 7:00 Opening Prayer acknowledging the Indigenous people on whose land we live (Heather)
- 7:05 Instruction/Review of documentary “We Shall Remain,” & making connection to the BBC Labyrinth Quadrant of “Telling the Truth,” with Whole Group reflection & discussion (may want to use some of 1st Set of Prompts/Reflections on History Covered: What history did you learn that you hadn’t been aware of? What spoke to your heart? What emotions did you feel while watching this doc? What new understandings do you have about the past? Did any of the history covered tie to you family history in some way? Are there elements of your family story you’d like to learn more about?) (Heather)
- 7:25 View “Doctrine of Discovery”
- 7:40 Dialogue Circles Topic: Exclusion & Stereotyping
- Reflect/discuss the “Doctrine of Discovery” film and how the behavior of white Christians is connected to Debbie Irving’s childhood question, “What happened to all the Indians?” (What stereotypes about people of another race do you recall hearing and believing as a child? Were you ever encouraged to question stereotypes in school, at home or in church? For whom do you feel empathy? Judgement? Why?)
- 8:10 Show Aaron Carapella’s “The Map of Native American Tribes You’ve Never Seen Before”; then focus in on Puget Sound/Seattle area. Brief description/update on Duwamish & show YouTube video, “Reparations for the Duwamish.” (Laurie)
- 8:15 Share-Out with Whole Group (Heather)
- 8:25 Housekeeping & what’s next (Heather)
- 8:30 Closing Prayer (Laurie)

“O God of infinite mercy, we live in a land where the native peoples were moved, often by force, from the bountiful lands they inhabited to places of desolation. Help us to support them now as they seek to retain their rich native cultures. Open our eyes to the poverty and despair that so often accompany them through life and give us courage and the will to change the systems that perpetuate injustice for the sake of your son, our Lord. Amen.”

- The Diocesan Commission to End Racism, of West Virginia