Mission & Antiracism
Laura M. Cheifetz
February 6, 2016

Definitions/Key Concepts

Mission: the church exists to do mission as a faithful response to the grace of God, sharing the good news of the gospel. An older version of the Book of Order stated: “the mission of the church is given form by God’s activity in the world as told in the Bible and understood by faith.”

Antiracism: “is about the reparation of the fabric of community and the role that institutions can play in that process.” – Joy Bailey in http://crossroadsantiracism.org/antiracism-analysis/what-does-antiracism-have-to-do-with-racial-equity/

Structural oppression: when the structures of society prevent certain groups from equitable treatment and full access.

Full Cycle of Mission

Example: Hunger

Provide Services
- Support food pantry
- Start a feeding program

Advocacy
- More affordable housing
- Immigration reform

Investment
- End food deserts
- Create temporary supportive housing
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Questions for Mission

- How does this work of mission repair community in the long term?
- How does this work of mission ensure the respect of each person’s full humanity and agency?
- How does this way of doing mission maintain or exacerbate disparities in spite of our good intentions?

Resources

Website: Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery
https://dofdmenno.org/

Online article: Mission and Ministry with Native American Peoples: A Historical Survey of the Last Three Centuries
http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/nativeamerican/mission-ministry/

Study Guide: Practicing God’s Radical Hospitality: Exploring Difference, Change and Leadership through the Spiritual Discipline of Hospitality by Teresa Chávez Sauceda. PWR #13060

