

South Carolina LMM Bold Gathering - May 23rd, 2020

Small Group Discussion Questions

"A Journey through Inclusivity" ***Presented by: Pr. Jackie Utley***

"But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard. Nor has entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." **1 Corinthians 2:9** (NKJV)

Regarding racism, sexism and classism as referenced in my presentation, a scripture passage that speaks to God's call to all people as one, regardless of race or gender, is:

"For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." **Galatians 3:26-28** (NRSV)

These following questions are based on the sharing of my experiences of inclusivity as an African American female serving as a pastor in the ELCA, in light of the existing racism and sexism in our world.
Pastor Jackie Utley

1. What are your true feelings regarding women being called by God to be pastors?
2. If you have no objections to female pastors, would you have a problem being a member of a congregation served by a female pastor?
3. If, perhaps you do have a female pastor, would you say you are tolerating her, but your preference is a male pastor?
4. Does it matter whether your pastor is non-White (i.e., a person of color)? In this instance, would gender make a difference?
5. As a cradle-Lutheran, how open are you to incorporating inter-racial/interfaith aspects of worship that differ from the traditional German styles of worship (i.e., hymns, music, liturgy)?



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