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For Clearer Vision of the Race Problem

Prepared by

The Church Women's Committee on Race Relations

Published by

The Commission on the Church and Race Relations
of the
Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America

INTRODUCTION

The following questions and brief references have been prepared and are issued in response to a demand for a brief outline for guidance in discussions of conditions of Negro life and relation of white and colored groups. These questions were originally used at a local interracial conference of church women but have been later revised and have found further acceptable use. They are now published and distributed in the hope that as use is made of them the Church Women's Committee may have comments and criticisms so that subsequently the leaflet may be improved and may give wider service. Suggestions and criticism should be mailed to George E. Haynes, Secretary, 105 East 22nd Street, New York.

I. MY CHURCH AND RACE RELATIONS

1. What should be the guiding Christian principles in dealing with the problems of race relations?

References: Oldham, J. H., *Christianity and the Race Problem*, Chapter II. Published by George H. Doran Company, New York. \$2.50. Abridged edition, with Introduction by W. W. Alexander, 1925—Chapter I; paper 15c.

Speer, Robert E., *Of One Blood*, p. 189 ff. Published by Council of Women for Home Missions and Missionary Education Movement, New York, 1924.

2. How are these principles being put into practice by the members of my church? (Written report of observations should be made.)
3. What is the program of my church for improving race relations? (Written reports.)
4. What should be the goal in church organization, interracially?

References: The Teachings of Jesus: John 4:1-26; Luke 10:25-37; Matt. 8:5-13; Luke 7:2-10; Luke 8:26-39.

II. CONDITIONS OF WHITE AND NEGRO WOMEN IN EMPLOYMENT

1. Get facts of comparative wages and working conditions of white and Negro women of my community in the factories and other places of employment in my community.
2. What are the comparative chances of white and colored women getting employment in my community? (Interviews are suggested.)

References: *Toward Interracial Cooperation*, What was said and done at the First National Interracial Conference; published by the Federal Council of Churches, 105 East 22nd Street; Paper 90c, cloth \$1.25, pp.104-136: "Industry and Race Relations."

III. HOUSING

1. What is the sanitary condition of Negro neighborhoods of my community? (Reports after observations.)
2. What are the churches of my community doing about it?

3. How are Negroes themselves influencing interracial attitudes on housing?
4. Difficulties of Negroes in renting and buying property in my community; what are the churches doing about it?

References: Better Houses for Negro Homes; published by Federal Council of Churches, 105 East 22nd Street, New York, 15c. Contains lists of references for reading, including survey reports.

Toward Interracial Cooperation, What was said and done at the first National Interracial Conference; published by Federal Council of Churches. 90c paper, \$1.25 cloth. Pp. 44-61.

IV. HEALTH

1. What are the comparative health statistics in my community? What has been done by health authorities of my community for the Negro population? (Interviews with health officers should be sought.) Is it the same as for the white population? Italian or other foreign born?
2. What hospital and clinical facilities are open to colored people, especially women and children? (See superintendents of local hospitals.) How does it compare with facilities for foreign born whites; for native whites?
3. Are there Negro doctors in my community, and what are their relations to the hospitals?

References: Negro Year Book, 1925-26, edited by Monroe N. Work, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. \$1.50 in cloth.

Toward Interracial Cooperation, What was said and done at the first National Interracial Conference, Published by Federal Council of Churches, 105 East 22nd Street, New York. 90c paper, \$1.25 cloth. Pp. 24-43: "Health and Race Relations."

Write for health reports to departments of health of New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, Louisville, Atlanta, New Orleans, etc.

V. EDUCATION

1. What is being taught our school children about race and race relations?

(Examine histories, geographies and literature used in grammar and high schools; write school superintendents for information.)

2. Are the educational facilities of the white and the Negro children of my community the same? If not, why not?
3. How can a higher and deeper appreciation of the contribution of each race be taught?
4. What is being done on race relations in religious education, in the Sunday Schools, young people's societies, etc., of my church; of any church in my community?
5. The Local Press: What can be done to interest local newspapers in interracial questions?

VI. COMMUNITY FACILITIES

1. What facilities are open to colored people in the parks, playgrounds, etc., of my community?
2. Are the libraries, theatres and moving picture houses open to colored people as to others?

VII. THE EDUCATED NEGRO IN AMERICAN LIFE

1. What is the attitude of the churches that have supported mission schools toward the Negroes in them as shown in appeals for support of these schools, etc? (Write home missions boards of the several communions for information about their schools.)
2. How can church women extend the hand of cooperation to the young people trained in these schools?
3. Are the students from these schools finding religious and personal contact with white people of their home communities? With white people anywhere?
4. Are there any special responsibilities of church women in this matter? If so, what?

VIII. GENERAL EXPERIENCE OF INTERRACIAL WORK OF CHURCH WOMEN

1. What joint meetings have white and Negro women held in my community or state?
2. Have white and Negro women of my community met to consider the housing, the health and sanitary conditions or the working conditions of the working Negro women of my locality?
3. Have they met to consider the problems created for working mothers by a lack of day nurseries; by the lack of recreational facilities for the young people, etc.?

References: Church Women in Interracial Cooperation, story of Eagles Mere Conference of church women leaders. Published by Federal Council of Churches, 105 East 22nd Street, New York. 3c per copy.

IX. PORTRAYALS OF NEGRO LIFE AND CHARACTER IN LITERATURE, SOME IN POETRY AND SOME IN PROSE

References: Ovington, Mary White. Portraits in Color. Published by The Viking Press, New York, 1927. \$2.00.

Haynes, Elizabeth Ross, *Unsung Heroes*. Secured through the Federal Council of Churches, 105 East 22nd Street, New York, 1922. \$2.50 postpaid.

Johnson, James Weldon, *Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man*. Published by Alfred A. Knopf, 1927. \$3.00.

Johnson, James Weldon, *Book of American Negro Poetry*. Published by Harcourt, Brace & Howe, 1922. \$2.25.

DuBois, W. E. B., *Souls of Black Folk*. Published by A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1903. \$2.00.

Alain Locke, *The New Negro*. Published by Albert and Charles Boni, New York, 1925. \$5.00.