



Discussion Questions For Dr. Clark-Pujara's presentation:

Complicity in the Making of
Race-Based Slavery:

From Roger Williams to the Cotton Kingdom

Talk given on January 10th, 2021

Compiled by the Racial Justice Team, members of
First Baptist Church, Madison, WI and
Co-Sponsors of the Talk

Sponsor: First Baptist Church, Madison **Co-Sponsors:** The Crossing ∞ Edgewood College Religious Studies Dept, Madison ∞ First Baptist Church, Lafayette, IN ∞ First Unitarian Society, Madison ∞ First United Methodist Church, Madison ∞ North Short Baptist Church, Chicago ∞ Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ, Madison ∞ Wisconsin Council of Churches ∞ Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

Discussion Questions

- What resonated most for you from Dr. Clark-Pujara's talk? Was there something that you learned that changed the way you view American history?
- Dr. Clark-Pujara stated that America was intended to be a white Republic. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
If her statement is true, what challenges does that present as we attempt to build an anti-racist society?
- Dr. Clark-Pujara addressed the subject of reparations for Black people in America by suggesting it be "paid" in the form of opportunity. Do you agree or disagree? What do you believe is necessary to begin to atone for the trauma of years of subjugation of Black people in this country? How would you do it?
- How do we take what we learned from Dr. Clark-Pujara's talk and these discussions and incorporate the lessons into our individual and church life? How can we be sure the way we understand and use the Bible proclaims "liberty to captives and freedom for the oppressed"?

Pre-Discussion Activity

To prime your thinking about our discussion questions, here is a quiz about the history of enslavement in Wisconsin. After you give the quiz a try, there is a link to a CNN interview with Dr. Clark-Pujara below.

Wisconsin Racial Injustice Quiz

Test your knowledge of these facts concerning Wisconsin's early history by circling "yes" or "no":

1. Henry Dodge came to Wisconsin in 1827 and later became the first governor of the new Wisconsin Territory. Yes No
2. Dodge owned slaves in his home in the Missouri Territory, but left them behind when he moved here. Yes No
3. It was legal to own slaves in the Wisconsin territory at the time. Yes No
4. Dodge brought 5 slaves with him and did not let them go until 11 years after arriving. Yes No
5. The first Wisconsin constitution in 1848 prohibited any one from voting except for white men. Yes No
6. A white man under that constitution who wanted to vote did not have to be a citizen – he only had to say he was 21 and intended to vote. Yes No
7. Ezekiel Gillespie, a former slave, enlisted the help of an Abolitionist in 1866 and finally got right to vote. Yes No

CNN Interview with Dr. Christy Clark-Pujara:

[Historian debunks misconception that racism is a Southern issue](#)

(Answers: 1 =Y, 2 = N, 3 = N, 4 =Y, 5 = Y, 6 = Y, 7 = Y)