



Sunday, May 18, 2008 is a very important day in the life of the United Church of Christ because preachers from all across of the church have been asked to focus their sermons on the issue of race. For those doing so, today will be a day in time when the pain of our history meets the hope of our future as a church and as a nation. What follows in the days and months ahead will undoubtedly open wounds for many.

As we begin this Sacred Conversation on Race, we also search for healing and reconciliation in the midst of the grace of God's Holy Spirit. Many across the church have already begun having these sacred conversations and many are seeking ways in which to set this dialogue into motion. Undoubtedly, there are numerous ways to engage it and scores of excellent experienced facilitators. We encourage serious and thoughtful consideration be given to the organizing of your sSacred Conversations.

Therefore, Steps for Starting the Conversation have been developed to assist congregations who need it to begin the process. Recognizing that this sacred Sacred Conversation should not be a one-time event, Justice and Witness Ministries, in working with the other Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ, will provide ongoing assistance and resources for the journey.

We seek God's blessings during this Pentecost experience.

Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo
Executive Minister,
Justice and Witness Ministries