

**An evening of prayerful repentance and reconciliation**

So often I, Paul Louis Metzger, have allowed the African-American community to grieve alone. I am not alone in this. I believe the white church culture, which I represent, has so often allowed the African-American church community to grieve in isolation. The Bible teaches that “if one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.” (1 Corinthians 12:26)

What has brought this to my attention is the heart cry of the African-American Christian community after the fatal shooting of Aaron Campbell. What stood out most to me is that while my African-American brothers and sisters in Christ grieved together privately and publically, I was not there to grieve in solidarity with them. Others in the white church community have expressed to me that they share the same regret. I sense this is the time for the white church community to take a stand.

This is about a new era in the greater-Portland church community where red and yellow, black and white, live together, reconciled in Christ. This goes to the heart of Jesus’ prayer in John 17. “I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” (John 17:23)

On the evening of Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30pm, I will be joining with Dr. John M. Perkins and Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr. to lead in a focused time of seeking God’s transformation of the broken relational structures that have erected barriers between the white church and the African-American church. This is meant to be a pivotal moment of worship in which members of the white church community of the greater-Portland area come together to repent and seek after righteous relationships with members of the African-American Christian community. We do hope that Christians of all ethnicities will gather with us in prayer. Perhaps God will use this event to inspire similar ventures between various ethnic communities.

In this invitation to repentance and reconciliation in view of recent events and historic patterns, I hope and pray that God will build a foundation for relational alliances of understanding, mutual dependence, and care. I am encouraging other white Christian leaders to join me to repent of our indifference and apathy and to call on God to lead us forward in love, truth and justice with and for our African-American brothers and sisters in Christ. There will be time to worship, hear Drs. Perkins and Haynes share from God’s word, and beseech God to make us one. Join us for an evening of prayerful repentance and reconciliation at Allen Temple CME Church (4236 NE 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.; Portland).



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***Sponsored by Drum Majors for Love, Truth, and Justice and Allen Temple CME Church***