

J O H N C A L V I N *Presbytery*

JCP Notices

March 7, 2023

Visit our website

Ozark Presbyterian Church would like to invite our siblings in Christ from JCP to our "Barbeque and Bingo Night" March 18th at 5pm. We will eat dinner first and then play bingo till about 7pm. OPC will provide the barbeque and salad to eat. Congregation members bring a desert. It would be wonderful to have everyone here for the fun. To get an idea of how much food we should have please let Diana Bland (dianabland4736@gmail.com) or the OPC church office (417-581-6988) know you are coming.

Save the Date

Financial Discipleship Training

Stewardship Kaleidoscope is open to all church leaders, including pastors, elders, and stewardship committee members.

September 25–27, Minneapolis Hyatt and Westminster Presbyterian Church

From the Executive Presbyter

In 1980, in Taiwan, I met a Presbyterian missionary who drank hot water for breakfast. I asked her why she did that. She said it was a spiritual discipline.

There, nearly in view of "all the tea in China," and having accepted a call to live in a developing country, far from her family, this woman felt compelled to add one more discipline to her life. Presbyterians can be pretty disciplined people!

In Christian Philosophy class, we studied the writings of Immanuel Kant and his idea that we have a categorical imperative—my professor called it an "oughtness." That sometimes, we do things because we ought to.

Many of us, our neighbors, coworkers, friends, and family members were raised to believe that, to attain eternal life, we had to make the first step toward God. To be saved. To go to heaven. More importantly, so we didn't go to hell. And it followed that a big part of the mission of the church was to help others be saved. So they could go to heaven also.

This orientation may insinuate itself into our daily lives.

We as Presbyterians have a Reformed theology. One person has summarized this as, "There is nothing you can do to make God love you more, and there is nothing you can do to make God love you less." God acted first. God is omnipotent. We don't have to go around "saving" people.

When I was becoming a Presbyterian, I wanted to know, more or less, "Where is the *oughtness*?" If it's all up to God, then what is there for us to do?

The answer came that we are grateful for the salvation God has offered us. We are called to live our lives in gratitude. In view of that, there is plenty to do.

That was a wonderful discovery.

May this Lent lead you on a discovery of new ways to live your calling.

Malinda

Microinterventions to Dismantle Everyday Racism

Submitted by the Rev. Jack Cormack, from Leaderwise; reprinted with permission.

by [Danny Elenz, PsyD, LP](#)

I play in a weekly billiards league, and our team captain is Black. He is regularly called the wrong name by opposing players, mistaken for another Black man in the league. Being mistaken for someone else can happen to anyone, but in majority-white spaces, it happens to people of color more frequently. This is an all too common microaggression or "brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral, or environmental indignities, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative racial slights and insults toward people of color" (Sue et al., 2021). Microaggressions occur in many forms and the term "micro" does not mean they aren't impactful:

- A microassault is an explicit derogation (violent verbal, nonverbal, or environmental attacks) meant to hurt an individual. Purposeful discriminatory action.
- A microinsult is communication that displays rudeness and insensitivity and demeans an aspect of someone's identity. An example is an employee who asks a colleague of color how she got her job, implying she may have landed it through an affirmative action or quota system.
- A microinvalidation excludes, nullifies, or negates the psychological thoughts, feelings or experiential reality of a person in a marginalized group. For instance, white people often ask Asian-Americans where they were born, conveying the message that they are perpetual foreigners.

Silence in the face of injustice is complicity with the oppressor — Ginetta Sagan

Choosing to respond to a microaggression may have multiple consequences or impacts on the person being microaggressed

against. the most common response is nothing. White allies are encouraged to consider possible influences on their inaction. I know I experience many of the following:

- Attributional ambiguity: an inability to determine whether a microaggression has occurred.
- Responsive indecision: not knowing the best way to respond.
- Time-limited responding: the incident is over before a response can be made.
- Denying experiential reality: engaging in self-deception by believing it did not happen.
- Impotency of actions: "It won't do any good anyway."
- Fearing the consequence: Interpersonal power differentials determine the degree of threat. Individuals of color are often exhausted with the burden of having to educate white people.
- Being oblivious/naive
- Avoiding conflict
- Fearing repercussions
- Loss of position/power
- Isolation
- Psychological stress
- Violence
- Freezing/Paralysis

The impacts of not responding:

- Loss of integrity
- Lowered self-esteem
- Pent-up anger, frustration, helplessness
- Somatic problems
- Continued racism

Microinterventions are "everyday anti-bias actions taken by targets, parents, significant others, allies, and well intentioned bystanders to counteract, challenge, diminish, or neutralize individual and institutional/societal expressions of prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination" (Sue et al., 2021). Microaffirmations are small acts that validate and affirm a person's humanity, experiential reality, and worth or value. They make a person feel welcomed, seen, heard, respected, valued, supported, and affirmed. Their purpose is to validate the worth of the target, minimize the sense of helplessness, and to challenge biased behaviors. In their new book, *Microintervention Strategies*, Sue et al. give many examples of each – which could be as small as making empathetic eye contact with a Black student when a white professor microaggresses by praising them for "a most articulate and surprisingly insightful explanation." A more direct example is asking to hear a Latinx colleague's viewpoint after a white manager has repeatedly ignored and talked over them in a meeting.

What follows is a menu of potential microinterventions you can use. Not all of them will fit for you. Ultimately, you decide how best to respond to microaggressions based on who you are and the context you're in:

- Convey the emotion that arose within you: This can be as simple as saying: "Ouch!" This gives the perpetrator a cue that they microaggressed and can invite them to be curious about what it was.
- Call it out: "I know you didn't realize this, but when you said _____, it was hurtful/offensive because _____."
- Share your own process: "I noticed that you _____. I used to say that too, but then I learned _____."
- Challenge the stereotype: "Actually, in my experience _____."
- Appeal to values and principles: "I know you really care about _____. Acting in this way undermines those intentions."
- Pretend you don't understand: "I don't get it. Why is that funny?"
- Point out what they/humanity have in common with the other person: "I don't find those trans jokes funny. Did you know they work as a _____ and really enjoy _____?"
- Use humor: "I look like Chris Brown? I guess all Black people look like Chris Brown?"
- Question the validity: "Always?" "Everybody?"
- Put the offender on the spot: "Could you repeat what you just said?"

- Ask for clarification: "How have you come to think that?"

Derald Wing Sue is a professor of counseling psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University. Sue is a pioneer in the field of microaggressions and, along with several of his students, wrote a recent book titled *Microintervention Strategies: What you can do to disarm and dismantle individual and systemic racism and bias*. It provides "the knowledge, skills and tactics that well-intentioned social justice advocates can use in their continuing efforts to disarm and dismantle racism and bias."

Sue, D. W., Calle, C. Z., Mendez, N., Alsaidi, S., & Glaeser, E. (2021). *Microintervention strategies: What you can do to disarm and dismantle individual and systemic racism and bias*. Wiley.

Other news

Do you know someone who might be called to work for JCP?

The Administrative Ministries Committee of John Calvin Presbytery is seeking a **Communication and Information Assistant** for 15 hours per week. This position is almost exclusively remote, with infrequent regional travel. ([job description here](#)).

Thanks to **Gibson Chapel** and **Hillcrest** Presbyterian Churches for hosting the February presbytery meeting!

The next Stated Presbytery Meeting--by Zoom May 18

Newly approved to the pulpit supply list
Bill Martin, ruling elder from the Nevada church

JCP Lenten Bible Study continues Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Other News from Around the Church

Living Waters for the World

Remember that 780 million people worldwide do not have access to clean water. Every 15 seconds, a child dies from a preventable, water-related disease. We can make a difference by installing one water system at a time reaching a school and the village.

Register now for *The Art of Transitional Ministry Training, Week I & II. May 22-26, 2023 at the beautiful Mercy Center, St. Louis, MO*

We live in a crazy time of transition in our churches and culture. Transitional Ministry Education is not limited to those presently engaged in or inquiring about transitional ministry. Anyone interested in learning how to walk through change alongside your church is invited to join in. *PLUS, we have expanded to include a more diverse faculty and re-worked curriculum for this spring.*

Mercy Center is a beautiful convent and retreat center which provides: good food for gathering, lovely grounds for unwinding, a labyrinth for spiritual centering, AND great space for meeting and learning from other motivated pastors, CREs, and all who serve the church on committees.

Basic Transitional Ministry Education consists of 60 contact hours plus a practicum. The contact hours are divided equally

between two residency weeks: Week I (30 hours) and Week II (30 hours), separated by a practicum that combines reflection on, and experience in, some aspect of interim/transitional ministry.

The faculty this spring includes: Rev. Dr. Barbara Wilson, Chicago Presbytery Director of Collaboration & Community Partnerships; Rev. Dr. Eric Thomas, Pastor of Siloam Pres, Brooklyn, NY; Rev. Bruce Jones, Transitional pastor, Milwaukee, WI; Rev. Dr. Tassie Green, Bridge Pastor of Hope Pres, Wheaton, IL; Rev. Gail Doering, Southern Kansas Transitional EP; and Tony de la Rosa, Transitional Exec, Synod of Mid America.

For more information and to register go to:
<http://synodma.org/transitional-ministry-education>

For questions: contact Dylan at office@synodma.org or faculty dean Tassie Green at revtassiegreen@gmail.com

Prayer List
Contact Us



IMPORTANT LINKS....

[Afghan Refugee Relief](#)

[About Afghan Donations](#)

[Afghan Resettlement/Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Supports](#)

[Board of Pensions Information](#)

[Disaster Bucket Information](#)

[IISMO Youth Mentor Program](#)

[IISMO Donation Information Update](#)

[IRS Mileage Rate increases](#) to 65.5 cents per mile in 2023

[Pulpit Supply List and Information](#)

[Project Jubilee](#)

[Pneumatrix Free Webinars](#)

[Receive Special JCP Communication Emails](#)

[Ukraine Support Information](#)

[Vital Congregations Initiative Video](#)

[For Congregations to Register for Vital Congregations Initiative](#)

[VCI 1ST Quarter Newsletter](#)

[VCI 1st Quarter Gathering Video](#)

[VCI FIRST Quarter Resources](#)

**Please mail all remittances
Per Capita, Shared Mission and special offerings to:**

John Calvin Presbytery
P. O. Box 1394
Ozark, Missouri 65721-1394

[Download Per Capita and Shared Mission Remittances for churches](#)

[Download Expense Vouchers](#)

PLAN NOW FOR 2023

Dates for the 2023 Stated Meetings of John Calvin Presbytery

Saturday, February 25, 2023 at Hillcrest, Springfield, **in person** with live streaming available

Thursday, May 18, 2023, by **Zoom only**

Thursday, August 3, 2023, by **Zoom only**

Saturday, November 4, 2023, **in person** with live streaming available

Prayers Requested

- Elizabeth Miller, infant daughter of the Rev. Chris and Mary Erin Miller, who is hospitalized.

- Dale Hill, CRE at the Stockton church, recovering from surgery.
- Stated meeting of the Synod of Mid-America, March 23

- **All churches seeking** a new pastor, to understand God's call moving forward.

First Presbyterian Church, Aurora, Missouri

First Presbyterian Church, Chanute, Kansas

Crane Presbyterian Church, Crane, Missouri

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Scott, Kansas

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church @Hideaway, Galena, Missouri

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Kimberling City, Missouri

First Presbyterian Church, Rolla, Missouri

The Presbyterian Church of Pittsburg

First Presbyterian Church, Sarcoxie, Missouri

First Presbyterian Church, Scammon, Kansas

- JCPDA

- JC Living Waters Mission Team--6 people, traveling March 26-April 1

- All Pastors of John Calvin Presbytery

Prayer submissions will remain on the prayer list for two weeks,
unless an update is received.

Contact Us..... How can we help?

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Mission and Nurture Committee Moderator: Becky Schwandt

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JC Presbyterian Women Co-Moderators:

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