

CALL FOR PAPERS: SPECIAL ISSUE OF *SOCIAL WORK & CHRISTIANITY*

Topic: Social Work and Racial Reconciliation
Guest Editors: Linda Darrell & Michael Kelly
Deadline: January 31, 2018 for Abstract Submissions

According to Dr. Eric Mason, Pastor of Epiphany Fellowship Church, a multi-ethnic church in Philadelphia reconciliation is defined as “*the restoration of friendly relationships and of peace, where there had previously been hostility and alienation*. Ordinarily, it also includes *the removal of the offense that caused the disruption of peace and harmony* ([Rom. 5:10](#), [2 Cor. 5:19](#), [Eph. 2:16](#))” (Mason, 2012). Numerous civil rights advocates, scholars, theologians and political leaders have begun to explore if it is finally time for the United States to engage in a process of racial reconciliation to address the legacy of slavery, racism, and white supremacy and its impact on African-Americans and white Americans. This special issue asks how social work, and specifically social workers operating within Christian contexts, might become part of the process of racial reconciliation.

Specific topics related to racial reconciliation will be explored in this issue, including:

- 1) Developing a rigorous and coherent definition of racial reconciliation
- 2) Assessing the potential for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in the U.S., based in part on the TRC model in South Africa after Apartheid
- 3) Analyzing the empirical, moral, political, and theological case for reparations in the U.S. related to racism against African-Americans
- 4) Evaluating the impact of anti-racist education as a strategy to increase racial reconciliation, particularly around developing awareness of the impacts of white privilege and white supremacist ideology on all Americans. Special emphasis here could be placed on anti-racist education that seeks to correct the exclusion of the actual history of slavery in America and its continuing impact on institutional racism within the core institutions of American society.

This special issue of *Social Work & Christianity* will explore the issue of racial reconciliation in the United States, focusing on social work responses within a Christian context attempting to address the legacy of American slavery, racism, and white supremacy. Submissions in the following areas are particularly requested:

- I. **Conceptual Articles** providing definitional clarity and theoretical frameworks supporting the integration of key principles of racial reconciliation.

II. **Empirical Articles** that apply ideas of racial reconciliation to social work **practice**, including articles addressing truth and reconciliation activities, reparations proposals, and anti-racist education and possibly including:

- Direct practice with individuals or families
- Group work (treatment or task group)
- Organizational practice
- Community Practice
- Policy practice
- Practice in rural or urban settings
- Church or congregational settings

III. Articles focused on **research methods** informed by or grounded in concepts of racial reconciliation

IV. Articles focused on the integration of racial reconciliation work in social work **education**.

Guidelines for submitting abstracts:

All authors are strongly encouraged to contact the special edition editors by email or phone (see contact information below) to discuss ideas for paper submissions. The deadline for all abstract submissions is January 31, 2018.

Abstracts submitted to SWC should begin with a title page, including the author's name, address, phone number, email address, abstract of no more than 500 words, a list of key words, and an indication of whether or not the author would like the manuscript to be peer-reviewed. Please use the American Psychological Association Style Manual format (6th edition) for in-text references and reference lists. Abstracts should be submitted electronically as email attachments, preferably in Microsoft Word.

Completed abstracts must be sent by January 31, 2018 to Michael S. Kelly and Linda Darrell, special issue co-editors, at the address/email address listed below.

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