

Mission u 2020

Requirements for Certification & Supplemental Resources for Adult Study *Pushout*

Mission u establishes certification requirements to help prepare study leaders to lead this study. The requirements for study leader certification are listed in Section 1 and further supplemental resources are listed in Section 2, but are not required for certification.

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Section 1: Requirements for Certification

This section contains the certification requirements for becoming a Mission u study leader.

A note on self-care: Almost *all* of these selections include potentially triggering content. The history and present of mass incarceration and race- and gender-based violence is painful and difficult to confront. We encourage you to engage in necessary self-care as you read these materials. Do not plan to pack this all into one (harrowing!) week. Pace your learning. Take breaks. Process what you are reading through journaling, prayer or conversation with a friend. Please engage this content with care and attention, and please engage yourself in the same manner.

Central Text

- ***Pushout***, by Monique Morris
 - Alternative Learning Modality: It will be important for all study leaders and participants to thoroughly read *Pushout* by Monique Morris in advance of the training. In addition, however, for those who might want to learn some of the key content in a different format, you may consider screening the movie *Pushout*, which was released in 2019.

Online Video

- Understanding Intersectionality: You might notice that intersectionality provides the key frame for *Pushout*. Watch this short video from **Kimberle Crenshaw**, “**The Urgency of Intersectionality**” ([youtube.com/watch?v=akOe5-UsQ2o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akOe5-UsQ2o)) to better understand the meaning of this important but often misunderstood lens.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

CHOOSE TWO

Full-Length Nonfiction [Choose two of the following texts or one of the following texts AND one alternative text.]

- To understand more about juvenile prisons, read... ***Burning Down the House: The End of Juvenile Prison***, by Nell Bernstein
 - Exploration of the experience of juvenile prison through careful journalism, with attention to youth voices and to the experience of young people's trauma while incarcerated.
Note: This text contains passages that offer detailed descriptions of violence experienced by youth, including discussions of physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

- To understand more about organizing strategies to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline, read... ***Lift Us Up, Don't Push Us Out: Voices from the Front Lines of the Educational Justice Movement***, edited by Mark Warren with David Goodman
 - Volume of short essays written by those involved in educational justice movements all over the United States, including ending the school-to-prison pipeline. Guide to organizing efforts happening all across the country. Offers us new possibilities for organizing and building solutions to what young people are experiencing.

- To understand more about the history of mass incarceration, read... ***The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness***, by Michelle Alexander
 - Detailed overview of the development of mass incarceration as a system
 - Accompanying Resource: Samuel DeWitt Proctor Study Guide
[amazon.com/New-Jim-Crow-Incarceration-Colorblindness/dp/0976514540/](https://www.amazon.com/New-Jim-Crow-Incarceration-Colorblindness/dp/0976514540/)

- To understand more about the death penalty and injustice in the criminal justice system, read... ***Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption***, by Bryan Stevenson
 - Tells the story of Bryan Stevenson and the Equal Justice Institute as they take on the cases of incarcerated people, many of whom are on death row, many of whom are wrongly convicted.

- To understand more about engaging in conversations about race and racism, read... ***So you want to talk about race***, by Ijeoma Oluo
 - As you prepare to lead this conversation, you may notice that questions are emerging not particularly about the *content* of the school-to-prison pipeline and mass incarceration but rather about the entire *approach* to conversations about race, as a whole. Especially if you are new to these conversations, we strongly recommend the general and accessible introduction provided here.
 - If you'd like, you may also opt to enroll in BRIDGE courses specifically designed for United Methodist Women that dive deeper into the content of some of the chapters of this book.

Young Adult Novels [alternative choice]

If you prefer narrative fiction and/or are a high school student, read...

- For many learners, engaging in the fast-paced and narrative style of young adult fiction can provide a much more accessible and engaging entry point. Both of the fictional texts below engage with important elements of the criminalization of young people of color and feature strong adolescent women as the lead protagonists. These books are also appropriate to read with high school age students and, while triggering, are less graphic than some of the nonfiction texts named above. They are also appropriate to read and discuss together with high school students.
 - *On the Come Up*, by Angie Thomas
 - *The Hate U Give*, by Angie Thomas

Graphic Nonfiction [alternative choice]

If you are a visual learner and you like graphic novels and graphic nonfiction, read...

Race to Incarcerate: A Graphic Retelling, by Sabrina Jones and Marc Mauer

- For visual learners interested in the history of mass incarceration but having difficulty engaging *The New Jim Crow*, this is an alternative brief visual history of the development of mass incarceration in the United States.

Online Checklist: Indicate the completion of the requirements above through the online certification checklist. <https://umwomen.wufoo.com/forms/s13olxfo10w5sxx>

Orientation to Mission u Online Course: Only for first-time study leaders (those who have not previously led a study in a conference Mission u). First-time study leaders will receive notice on how to access the course after registering for the Mission u training. Registration for Mission u training is scheduled to open in late January.

*All requirements for certification listed above must be completed before the Mission u training event.

Attendance at One Mission u Training Event: Your Mission u dean will notify you when registration for training is available.

Section 2: Supplemental Resources

The following resources are not required for the certification process; however, study leaders may find them useful as they prepare to lead the study.

Excerpts

Each of the texts below offers a valuable contribution to the conversation. We are mindful, however, that you have limited time. We would recommend reading through the excerpts/sections included here. If you want to go into more depth, feel free to read the full volume.

- Excerpt of *Sing a Rhythm, Dance a Blues: Education for the Liberation of Black and Brown Girls*, by Monique Morris: Track 3, "Cell Bound Blues: Removing Police from Schools," pp. 87-109.
- Excerpt of *Troublemakers*, by Carla Shalaby: "A Letter to Teachers," pp. 171-181.

- Excerpt from ***Rethinking Incarceration: Advocating for Justice That Restores***, by Dominique DuBois Gilliard: Chapter 11, “Holy Interruptions: Dismantling Mass Incarceration,” pp. 186-199.
- Excerpt #2 from ***I Was in Prison: United Methodist Perspectives on Prison Ministry***, “To See and To Be Seen,” by Janet Wolf: Chapter 7, pp. 109-135.
- Excerpt from ***Racial Purity and Dangerous Bodies: Moral Pollution, Black Lives, and the Struggle for Justice***, by Rima Vesely-Flad: Chapter 6, “Seeing Jesus in Michael Brown: New Theological Constructions of Blackness,” pp. 175-194.
- Excerpt from ***#NotMyPrincess***: “Freedom in the Fog,” pp. 46-49.
- Excerpt #1 from ***I Was In Prison: United Methodist Perspectives on Prison Ministry***, “Remember Those Who Were in Prison as Though You Were in Prison With Them’ (Heb 13:3): A Biblical-Theological Mandate for Prison Ministry,” by Josiah U. Young, III: Chapter 4, pp. 51-62.
- Excerpt from ***The Politics of Jesús: A Hispanic Political Theology***, by Miguel De La Torre: Chapter 1, “For Unto You is Born this Day a Liberator,” pp. 21-53.

Film Resources

There are several great film resources to explore:

- *13th* by Ava Duvernay
 - Considers the development of mass incarceration and the criminalization of communities of color through the lens of the 13th amendment to the Constitution, which prohibited slavery and involuntary servitude “except as punishment for a crime.”
 - Available on Netflix
 - See more about the film here: avaduvernay.com/13th
- *True Justice: Bryan Stevenson’s Fight for Equality*
 - If you are interested in Bryan Stevenson’s story but seeking an alternative learning modality to the text *Just Mercy*, try this <2-hour documentary.
 - Available online with a free sign-up, or with an HBO subscription.
 - See more about the film free here: hbo.com/documentaries/true-justice-bryan-stevensons-fight-for-equality

In addition to the full-length documentary videos noted above, you may find it helpful to watch and utilize some short video clips. All of the videos listed below are available on YouTube and less than eight minutes.

- Video Clips:
 - Three videos from Youth First Initiative (click 1, 2, 3 on side of screen to see each of them in turn): nokidsinprison.org/watch
 - “Black Girls Breaking Silence on School Push-Out,” by Girls for Gender Equity (NYC): youtube.com/watch?v=-y0AmxZMgpQ

Additional Articles/Interactive Resources

- Do-It-Yourself Research Tool: ocrdata.ed.gov/Search
- “We Came to Learn: A Call to Action for Police Free Schools,” by the Advancement Project. Details students’ experience of school resource officers across the country. It is available here: advancementproject.org/wp-content/uploads/WCTLweb/index.html#page=1
- “Historical Timeline of Public Education in the U.S.” by Race Forward: raceforward.org/research/reports/historical-timeline-public-education-us
- History.com resource on Native American boarding schools (important to review if this history is unfamiliar to you!): [history.com/news/government-boarding-schools-separated-native-american-children-families](https://www.history.com/news/government-boarding-schools-separated-native-american-children-families)
- School-to-Prison Pipeline: Zero Tolerance for Latino Youth, by National Council of La Raza and Models for Change: publications.unidosus.org/bitstream/handle/123456789/655/ZeroToleranceFactSheet22011.pdf
 - See also: School-to-Deportation Pipeline Know Your Rights Guides, compiled by Dignity In Schools Campaign: dignityinschools.org
 - Model Policies to Fight Criminalization, compiled by Dignity In Schools Campaign. Visit dignityinschools.org

Better Teaching

- BONUS: If you are a PK-12th grade teacher and want great lesson plans read... Many of the participants in your courses may themselves be PK-12 educators wondering how to engage some of this content in their own classrooms. You might want to get familiar with the incredible pedagogical resources at *Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action*. From coloring books to lesson plans for all ages, this is a great resource that shows what pedagogy might be all about: blacklivesmatteratschool.com
- If you want to be a part of Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action in early February, email Kenya (mkenya@kenyaceceliarose.com) and Emily (ejones@unitedmethodistwomen.org).

Bible Studies

- If you want to dive deeper into Scripture and the school-to-prison pipeline, read...
 - Check out our Bible Study series here: unitedmethodistwomen.org/school-to-prison-pipeline-bible-study
 -  Reading the Bible Together: Focus on Women, Children and Youth (SERIES INTRO)
 -  Biblical Women: Claiming Justice for Ourselves and Our Children
 -  Children and Youth Through God’s Eyes
 -  Claiming Joy and Truth in a World that Misses Out on #BlackGirlMagic
 -  Seeking the Lost with Love
 -  Systemic Racism, Social Holiness and the Powers and Principalities of Our Time

Contextualizing the Conversation

- If you are encountering defensive reactions from white participants, read...
 - You might experience that there are particular challenges unique to engaging this conversation with white people. If this is your experience, or an experience you anticipate in your setting, we recommend engaging with the work of Robin D'Angelo. She has published a book, *White Fragility*, and numerous articles. In addition, GCORR has a brief video that provides an introduction. Both the video and article are available for free.
 - “White Fragility” article link: libjournal.uncg.edu/ijcp/article/view/249/116
 - “Deconstructing White Privilege” video link: r2hub.org/library/vital-conversations-racism-dr-robin-diangelo

Resources that can help study leaders draw connections between *Pushout* and *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*

- ***My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies***, by Resmaa Menakem. In this groundbreaking work, therapist Resmaa Menakem examines the damage caused by racism in America from the perspective of body-centered psychology. He argues this destruction will continue until Americans learn to heal the generational anguish of white supremacy, which is deeply embedded in all our bodies. Our collective agony doesn't just affect African Americans. White Americans suffer their own secondary trauma as well. So do blue Americans—our police.
- ***The Body Keeps the Score***, by Bessel van der Kolk
In this book, the author uses recent scientific advances to show how trauma literally reshapes both body and brain, compromising sufferers' capacities for pleasure, engagement, self-control and trust. He explores innovative treatments—from neurofeedback and meditation to sports, drama and yoga—that offer new paths to recovery by activating the brain's natural neuroplasticity.
- TED Talk with Nadine Burke Harris – In this TED Talk, Dr. Nadine Burke Harris talks about how childhood trauma affects health across a lifetime.
[ted.com/talks/nadine_burke_harris_how_childhood_trauma_affects_health_across_a_lifetime](https://www.ted.com/talks/nadine_burke_harris_how_childhood_trauma_affects_health_across_a_lifetime)