

## **Different Together: A Journey in Reconciliation**

*Reconciliation is an ongoing spiritual process involving forgiveness, repentance and justice that restores broken relationships and systems to reflect God's original intention for all creation to flourish.*

-Brenda Salter McNeil-

**May 28, 2017**  
**Acts 1:8, Acts 2**

**Speaker: Rand Tucker**  
***A Multi-ethnic Vision of the Church***

Jesus had a vision of the Gospel witness moving throughout the world (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8), but at Pentecost the world had come to Jerusalem to hear the first proclamation of the good news. If the church as seen at Pentecost and as we will see it in heaven (Revelation 7:9) is multi-ethnic, then today's Christians should pursue Jesus' multi-ethnic vision of the church.

**June 4, 2017**  
**Acts 6:1-7**

**Speaker: Drew Jackson**  
***Overcoming Injustices That Arise***

When discrimination or injustices arise within this new Christian community, leaders are appointed to right what is wrong and ensure that the needs of all are being addressed with fairness and equity. Reconciliation between one another cannot take place without a genuine interest and an active address of the needs of everyone in the community. (This could apply to needs within the church community or problems in the world that impact our lives).

**June 11, 2017**  
**Acts 8**

**Speaker: Mia Rubin**  
***Taking The Gospel to Those Different Than Ourselves***

Though Christians, like others in the world, often feel most comfortable with people who are most like themselves, the gospel must be taken beyond our own comfort zone. God wants to use us to share this good news with others in the world, and we may be surprised at how God is already preparing them for the good news. (possibly draw in John 4 of Jesus' example)

**June 18, 2017**  
**Acts 10**

**Speaker: ChiChi Okwu**  
***Breaking Down Traditional Barriers***

God has reconciled us to himself and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Part of the journey of reconciliation is discovering that the historic dividing walls of hostility have been torn down spiritually, and we are now called into fellowship with people we used to be separated from. (Could also possibly draw in Ephesians 2, how God has taken down the dividing wall of hostility.)

**June 25, 2017**  
**Acts 11:19-26, 13:1-3**

**Speaker: Phil Jackson**

***A Multi-ethnic Church Becomes a Missionary Sending Base***

It takes a few people to breakthrough prejudicial lines to build a multi-ethnic fellowship, but when that happens, that local church becomes a place where everyone is welcome and a missionary sending base. (Could also possibly draw in Galatians 3:26-28)

**July 2, 2017**  
**Acts 15**

**Speaker: Rand Tucker**

***Christianity and Culture***

What's God's expectation for Christians in regard to their culture and their new identity in Christ? We discover that Christianity will force everyone to repent from sin but not necessarily abandon their ethnic or cultural background. We should be cautious to either tolerate sin within or bring a cultural bias into the church. A truly reconciled church welcomes diversity while also pursuing righteousness together (Could also possibly bring in I Corinthians 8 & 10 about not causing your brother to stumble nor discrediting your witness.)