

Dear Editor,

Thank you for September's bold, informative and richly researched edition of the Dialog. I read it from cover to cover, and couldn't put it down. Race is not an easy subject, and I find people are quick to make sweeping statements or become very glib just to gloss over the depth of pain and distress associated with this topic. And that goes for all types of people, whether perceived as privileged or oppressed. Yet, this edition avoided that clichéd approach.

Starting with that wrenching cover photo that must have taken many by surprise: why can Jesus not look like a Black man, any more than an Asian or Native American or Hispanic? It really gives food for thought. It also challenges us to re-think some of the ideas and images associated with Christianity that we have taken for granted, for too long.

Finally, your Editor's Note was clearly well-thought out and researched. The selection of articles – both by their authorship and their content – gave good food for thought, without being maudlin, without casting blame and without inviting shame. I like that you included practical tips and resources, such as Bishop Kinman's guidance for self-help race healing in "Releasing the Captives", Dr. Meeks' "Made for Goodness" reading circle study group, and information on the ground-breaking "One Human Race" workshop series being conducted year-round by the Myra McDaniels' Chapter of UBE in Austin.

Once again, thank you for this bold effort. It starts the conversation that we must all have if we are to answer the call of Bishop Andy Doyle to become one church, in all its diversity, reconciled in Jesus Christ, where we engage, and listen, and learn from each other, as we strive to become "The Beloved Community".

Sincerely,

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