Recommended Study Resources

1. **One Body, One Spirit: Principles of Successful Multiracial Churches**, by George Yancey from IVP Press. This book explores the principles drawn from the study done by the author of existing multiracial churches.

2. **Ministering Cross-Culturally**, by Sherwood G. Lingenfelter and Marvin K. Mayers from Baker Academic. This is a Second Edition (fourth printing) indicating its value. There is a great “Basic Values” questionnaire on pages 30-35 that helps one understand one’s hidden values and looks at them in relation to other cultures. The book elucidates how conflicts arise and how understanding one another leads to further progress in reconciliation.


4. Anderson’s other book with Brent Zuercher, **Letters Across the Divide: Two Friends Explore Racism, Friendship and Faith** is also excellent for approaching the difficult questions regarding race relations “that aren’t asked out loud”. Learn about race relations by “eaves-dropping” on two faithful friends.

5. All the books by The Reverend Eric H.F. Law:
   - The Wolf Shall Lay Down With the Lamb: Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community.
   - Inclusion: Making Room for Grace.
   - The Bush was Blazing but Not Consumed: Developing Multicultural Ministry through Dialogue and Liturgy.
   - The Word at the Crossings: Living the Good News in a Multicontextual Community
   - Sacred Acts, Holy Change: Faithful Diversity and Practical Transformation
   - Finding Intimacy in a World of Fear


7. **Understanding and Dismantling Racism: The Twenty-First Century Challenge to White America** by Joseph Barndt, Fortress Press. Here is a book I have been looking for a long time. Eric Law first mentioned it to me. It does an outstanding job of analysis of the root of racism initiated in the colonization of the world by Europeans, and the way it manifests in the USA. I always thought that as a “white” person I was terribly deprived of something to be treasured by the fact of racism. Now I have a clearer understanding of how the reality of racism, even today, distorts my humanity as well as all communities of color, and in fact places me in a very pleasant prison. In that
prison, even talking about or breaching the subject of white privilege is dangerous, in spite of my whiteness. Barndt’s analysis is so clear, especially for institutional racism and cultural racism, phenomena that I have had little understanding of or never heard of, respectively. And the book was written for me, a white man! I highly recommend it, despite some hyperbole (inescapable, perhaps). Sometimes disturbing, this book is evenhanded and does not reduce racism to a re-victimizing of one group, but instead brings to consciousness what we have been anaesthetized to and forgotten.

8. **Being White: Finding our Place in a Multiethnic World** by Paula Harris and Doug Schaupp, Intervarsity Press.

9. **Everything Must Change: Jesus, Global Crisis and a Revolution of Hope** by Brian D. McLaren is very good. He systematically analyses the world’s economy and the social values it brings with it, and compares it to the gospel texts of Jesus’ life, teaching and ministry. It’s a powerful indictment of how unaware we can be that our primary loyalty is to the values of the economy rather than to God. He picks up on recent scholarship by Crossan and others that points out the deliberate appropriation of such terms of the Roman Empire as “savior” and “peace” by Jesus and the early Christians, and the clear indictment of the Roman Empire’s system of peace by domination that is revealed in the crucifixion of Christ, and conquered by his resurrection. He uses an easy vernacular and short chapters to make this one of the most accessible reads I have had in recent times. This is no airheaded political agenda of the Left or the Right, this is Jesus centered reflection. Read it, you’ll like it!

10. **Becoming Bridges: The Spirit and Practice of Diversity** Gary Commins, Cowley Publications. Here’s a quote: “My experience in a multicultural congregation is that people from each culture sometimes assume, without malice, perhaps even intending charity, that they – whoever they are – would be better off if only they would become more like us – whoever we are.” With group study notes.

11. **Bury my Heart At Wounded Knee: An American History of the American West** by Dee Brown, Owl Books. A thoroughgoing, excruciating history of the extermination of Native Americans at the hands of “whites”.


13. **Sojourners** [www.sojo.net](http://www.sojo.net)