

# ***Living into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America* by Dr. Catherine Meeks**

**Book Study Guest Discussion Leaders**

**Chapter 2**

**Dusty (Richard) and Vicki Rhoades**

**Live: 10/15 @ 2-3 PM**

**Online: 10/18 @ 7:30-8:30 PM**



*For 6 weeks in October and November leaders from the community will guide both a live and online book discussion on “**Living into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America**,” a collection of essays edited by Dr. Catherine Meeks. Each guest leader(s) will post a reflection on a chapter(s). The reflections are on the Middleham and St. Peters website and the weekly Sunday bulletin.*

*The reflection for Chapter 2 comes from Dusty and Vicki Rhoades (see a brief bio below their reflection).*

## **Reflection**

### **Reflection on Chapter 2**

**by Dusty and Vicki Rhoades**

#### **Dissecting Racism: Healing Minds, Cultivating Spirits**

Chapter Two of *Living into God's Dream* beckons us to question why we think the way we do about race relations. Some of us may have been brought up in very accepting families, while others may have had parents and other role models who were less accepting of differences of race, religion or ethnicity. This chapter encourages us to examine what our life experience has been and how that experience and/or which

people in our lives influenced our perspective. Has our thinking changed from what we were taught while growing up? Are there things we still need to unlearn?

Ms. Brown asks “What are my primary identities? What does it mean to be White or Black and where did I learn that?” She invites us to consider our perspective on “others”. What assumptions about others have we learned? Have we consciously or unconsciously taught them to our children? When have we ourselves been an “other”? What was that experience like?

How do you react to the concept of privilege? Dusty has come to the realization that even though he worked very hard to achieve what he has in life, as a white male in America he always had things a bit easier than many others. Some of his advantages were earned while some were not. He had a tailwind. What earned and unearned privilege have you experienced in your life?

We look forward to joining with you to consider what Ms. Brown calls “The Journey toward Wholeness”. We hope to share a space in which “racial harmony may exist and flourish”.

## Brief Biography

### **Vicki and Dusty Rhoades**

Vicki and Richard “Dusty” Rhoades have been mediators for the Community Mediation Centers of Calvert and St. Mary’s Counties since 2001. They were instrumental in establishing both centers in Southern Maryland. Vicki and Dusty have done mediations in a variety of conflict situations, including family, neighborhood, District and Circuit Courts, and the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights discrimination cases. In partnership with many local organizations, they have facilitated public conversations on important and often difficult topics for the past ten years. Vicki and Dusty have been partners in life for nearly 50 years. They are members of Patuxent Friends (Quaker) Meeting. They have two wonderful adult children and two brilliant and talented (of course) grandchildren!