**RACE & CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY INITIATIVE** 

# HIGHLIGHTS FROMOUR HISTORY 2015-2022





# 2015 - 2016

#### BEGINNINGS

The idea of RCCI was birthed in 2015 and, over the course of two years, a foundation was laid for its ministry. Initial steps included learning who is addressing issues related to race locally and nationally and holding one-on-one conversations with over 75 key stakeholders. From the beginning, we've valued community, taken the posture of a learner, and sought to better understand the work the Lord is already doing so we can connect and contribute to His working in the world.

# MARCH 6, 2017

#### **OUR FIRST BLOG**

RCCI publishes our first blog, "<u>A Word to</u> <u>White Evangelicals</u>" challenging our white brothers and sisters to engage issues related to race. RCCI invited white folks desiring to respond to this challenge into an <u>initial conversation</u>. This conversation began a journey of exploring how White evangelicals can learn in Christian community about issues related to race.





# OCTOBER 14, 2017

#### **OUR FIRST COHORT**

RCCI pilots its first <u>cohort</u>. Cohorts are learning communities where White evangelicals can learn about racism from a biblical perspective and develop the capacity to respond to it as an outworking of their faith. To learn more about how members of our pilot helped develop our cohort and support and accountability groups read <u>Origin Story</u>: <u>How RCCI's first Cohort Took Shape</u>.

# MAY 30, 2018

#### LAUNCH PARTY

RCCI celebrates the official launch of RCCI's ministry at our community gathering and fundraiser. Check out our <u>launch party</u> <u>video</u> to get a sense for the ethos and energy surrounding RCCI's ministry!





# **TAKE ACTION**



Join our <u>prayer request mailing</u>

See our <u>prayer requests for</u> <u>this quarter</u>

# **OCTOBER 1, 2018**

#### **BUILDING ON A FOUNDATION OF FAITH**

RCCI Launches its monthly conference call prayer sessions and begins intentionally incorporating spiritual practices like personal prayer, reflection, and fellowship into the rhythms of RCCI's ministry. Our rhythms of prayer and spiritual practices undergird our ministry and make way for the Lord to do his healing and transformative work. Check out <u>A Theology of Racial Healing</u> to understand how our faith informs our ministry.

# JUNE 26, 2019 🔶

### SUPPORT & ACCOUNTABILITY GROUPS

RCCI pilots our first <u>Support &</u> <u>Accountability Group</u> for White evangelicals who desire to take action to contribute to the dismantling of racism.

This was birthed following a year-long collaborative process led by members of RCCI's inaugural cohort who imagined the values, practices, postures, and skillsets needed to move white evangelicals from knowing and caring about race to taking ongoing, anti-racist action.





# SUMMER & FALL 2019

### LEARNING TO ENGAGE MULTIRACIAL COMMUNITY

In the second half of 2019, RCCI hosted a workshop series and community forums that created spaces for people of all races to learn about and engage issues related to race. This was done in an effort to live into our broader vision of nurturing multiracial community. These experiences would help us better understand how to engage well in multiracial community as an organization that focuses on coming alongside white evangelicals.



# TAKE ACTION

- Are you a white person just starting out on your journey? Explore <u>5</u>
  <u>Mindblowing Realities About Race</u> (<u>White People May not Know</u>).
- If you're further along, check out RCCI's <u>next steps resources for white</u> <u>evangelicals</u>. While designed for white folks, this has resources that can benefit people of all races.

## SPRING 2020

#### **RACIAL RECKONING**

The murder of George Floyd, Ahmud Arbery and Breonna Taylor in early 2020 contributed to a racial reckoning that led many white evangelicals to question their understanding of race relations in the US. At the recommendation of our advisory board, RCCI hyper focused our work on coming alongside White evangelicals. The experiences we had during this time helped us see both the great need for and our suitedness to disciple this population. We've maintained this focus ever sense.



### FALL 2020 - 2021

#### **COMING ALONGSIDE**

As many White evangelicals were left confused and concerned by the racial reckoning of 2020, RCCI began offering (and learning how to offer) 1:1 discipleship to local Christian leaders. Check out Jim's Story about how RCCI came alongside him in his wrestling and helped him share what he was learning with other white leaders. Today, RCCI continues to offer 1:1 discipleship and thought partnership of various forms.

# 2022

#### **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**

RCCI's heart has always been that of a teacher and bridge-builder. In fall, 2022, we began exploring new ways of teaching and connecting the past and present through an experiential learning day on the history of slavery in Boston. We continue to open people to God's transformative work through experiential, immersive, and holistic learning today. Explore RCCI's <u>History of</u> <u>Racism in Boston Resource List</u> to better understand how Boston has participated in and been shaped by racism.



Long Wharf



Fanueil Hall & Quincy Market



# MAY 2022 - MAY 2023

HONORING OUR FIRST 5 YEARS & PREPARING FOR THE NEXT

As we approached our 5 year

anniversary, we entered into a season of reflection, learning and strategic planning to prepare for our future. Explore a blog on <u>lessons we're</u> <u>learning</u> in the first 5 years of ministry and strategic <u>ministry shifts</u> that came out of this time of reflection.

## WHAT WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT FOR OUR FUTURE

- **Renewed Commitment to BIPOC Leadership:** We're committed to following the leadership of people of color and supporting the work they are already doing to continue God's redemptive work across racial lines.
- **Impactful action taking:** We're focusing on building action-taking communities that move people from ideological commitments to engaging issues related to race to lifestyles of anti-racist action.
- Exploring transformative means of learning: We're pressing into holistic and experiential learning methods that help folks connect the past & present and nurture transformation in people's hearts, minds, bodies & spirits.

# **STAY CONNECTED!**

### • Ways to stay in touch:

- 1. Sign up for RCCI's Resource & Events Email List for regular communications about race-related learning and action opportunities hosted by organizations throughout Greater Boston.
- 2. Sign up for <u>RCCI's quarterly newsletter</u> for bigpicture updates about our ministry.

# **INVEST IN RCCI'S FUTURE : GIVE**

• Give to financially support the next 5 years of RCCI's ministry at www.egc.org/race-give.

# **ARCHIVED RCCI NEWSLETTERS**

**RCCI BELIEVES IN HONESTY AND TRANSPARENCY AS WELL AS THE VALUE** OF THE JOURNEY. AS A RESULT, WE OFFER LINKS TO OUR ARCHIVED NEWSLETTERS SO YOU CAN BETTER SEE THE JOURNEY WE'VE BEEN ON.

### 2017

**1.1: RCCI Inaugural Newsletter** 

### 2018

1.2: Celebrating RCCI's 1st Pilot Cohort, Announcing our Ministry Launch

- 1.3: Ministry Launch Photos, Testimonies & Resources
- 1.4: Launching New Programs into 2019

### 2019

2.1: New Advisory Board & Leaders Cohort

2.2: 2019 Community Gathering & Fundraiser Photos & Resources

- 2.3: RCCI Launching New Initiatives!
- 2.4: RCCI Year in Review 2019

### 2020

3.1: Combat Racism during COVID-19

- 3.2: Responding to Racial Violence Summer 2020
- 3.3: RCCI Fall Newsletter 2020

### 2021

4.1: Launch 1st Gordon Cohort, New Workshops

4.2: Support & Accountability Group Relaunch

4.3: Exploring History of Slavery in Boston, 2nd Gordon Cohort Launched 4.4: RCCI Year in Review 2021

### 2022

5.1: Remembering 5 Years of Ministry 5.2: Inaugural cohort 5 yr. reunion & how the legacy continues 5.3: RCCI Year in Review 2022

20236.1: Ministry Shifts 6.2. RCCI's 5 Year Anniversary!

> PAST STATEMENTS AGAINST RACIAL HATRED STATEMENT AGAINST ANTI-BLACK RACISM 2020 **RESPONSE TO US CAPITOL INSURRECTION STATEMENT AGAINST ANTI-ASIAN RACISM 2021** STATEMENT ON BUFFALO SHOOTING