

## GPC Listening Sessions on Race Format and Instructions

### *Q. How are the listening sessions being conducted?*

The listening sessions will be conducted by video conference call through a program called Zoom. If you have not previously used it, Zoom is a program that allows for multiple individuals to join together in a virtual meeting—essentially the computer equivalent of individuals meeting together in the same physical room.

Prior to your listening session, you will receive an email with a website link that you click on to join your meeting. If you have not used Zoom previously, when you click on this link your computer automatically will prompt you to download software that is necessary to participate in the call (the “Zoom Client”). (You also can manually download the Zoom Client beforehand at this link: [https://zoom.us/download#client\\_4meeting](https://zoom.us/download#client_4meeting). And if you will be participating using an Android or an Apple iOS tablet or phone, you can install the “ZOOM Cloud Meetings” app from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.)

A video tutorial on how to join a Zoom meeting is available at this link:  
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-How-Do-I-Join-A-Meeting->

If you have any questions about how to participate in a listening session through Zoom, please contact Pastor Rachel, Pastor Chris, or any of the Session’s Task Force members (Katie Seaman, Priscila Lucía Rodríguez Benavides, Nicholas Gray, and Marianne Roos). **We do not want any member of the congregation to be denied an opportunity to participate in a listening session because of technology.**

We ask that participants click on the Zoom meeting link five (5) minutes before the scheduled start time, so that you can confirm that your camera and microphone are working correctly.

### *Q. Who will be on the video call for each listening session?*

Each listening session will have no more than eight (8) participants from the congregation who will each answer three (3) questions. The sessions will be administered by a facilitator, a scribe and a time-keeper.

**Facilitator:** The role of the Facilitator is to conduct the listening session in a manner that allows for the questions to be responded to in a timely fashion and to make sure that everyone in the room who wishes to speak can do so. The Facilitator will make a short statement in the

beginning of the gathering about the purpose of the gathering. The Facilitator may also remind participants of the rules for the listening session. This role will be fulfilled by Pastor Rachel.

**Scribe:** The Scribe will take summary notes of the statements made by participants in as accurate a manner as possible. **All notes made by the Scribe will be anonymized; the identity of the participant speaking will not be recorded.** The Scribe will not be engaged in the conversation unless asked to do so by the facilitator to answer a question or to offer some assistance in some manner. This role will be fulfilled by Pastor Chris.

**Time-Keeper:** The Time-Keeper's role is to ensure all participants keep to their allotted time, and will give notice to the speaker through the use of written signs of how much of the speaker's allotted time is remaining and when that time has expired. This role will be fulfilled by a member of the Session's Task Force.

***Q. What questions will the participants be asked to answer?***

Each participant will be invited to answer the following questions:

- (1) As a child, what did you hear adults around you say, whether positive or negative, about people of other races, if anything?
- (2) As an adult, what are your general thoughts/beliefs about race and diversity in the world?
- (3) How does your faith inform your understanding of race, and what has been your experience of race in the church?

***Q. Are there any rules governing how the listening sessions will be conducted?***

Yes. The following rules apply:

- Participants are expected to share from their own experience, using first-person language.
- Participants are expected to answer the questions given.
- Participants may elect to skip any or all questions.
- Participants are not permitted to engage with one another by responding to others' words, even in their own allotted time.
- Each participant will be limited to six (6) total minutes of speaking, all in two (2) minute increments.
- Participants are required to keep confidence, not sharing any part of the meeting with others after completion.
- The Scribe will take notes without indicating the identity of the speaker.
- No video or audio recordings will be made of the Zoom meeting.

***Q. What happens next?***

The job of analyzing the listening sessions will be given to the Session's Task Force, who will receive the Scribe's notes completely anonymized. Their task will be to reflect back the words of the congregation in a synthetic way, highlighting representative quotations, as well as giving, in broad strokes, a sense of the views people bring, and in what proportion. This analysis will then be used by the Session in considering further actions.