

# PEARCE CHURCH

## PASTOR'S POST | March 10, 2023

Dear Pearce Family,

A book was recently recommended to me by Josh and Laura Sarchet through Julie Smith. [Colorful Connections](#), by Dr. Sandra Dalton-Smith and Lori Stanley Roeleveld, is a book about having healthy interactions around the topic of race. The co-authors are two Jesus followers, one black and one white, who collaborated to have a public conversation about race in hopes of inspiring other Christians to begin their own conversations. Conflicts, events, and debates about race in our times have polarized and divided people, families, and congregations. Even Pearce has been affected by language and behavior that has conveyed unacceptance to people of color. We need to proactively address these concerns, humbly repent of any hint of racism in our midst, and become more welcoming toward all people. This book can help us take steps in the right direction.

Looking around in worship, I lament the fact that we lack the beautiful diversity that is part of God's family and our own region. We have to own this reality and do the work of understanding and connecting more broadly with people of color to welcome them in and enfold them into God's family here. We will be enriched if we do so. Without them, we are spiritually impoverished. We have to build bridges to others who do not look like us.

Our church's mission is meant to reflect the full Kingdom of God now as seen in Revelation 7:9. *After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.* Our Administrative Team and Board are reading this book and praying about the healing process of racial reconciliation. I invite you to join us in this effort so we can truly reflect the beauty and fullness of God's Kingdom at Pearce.

With Faith,  
*Pastor Todd*