

January Institute

Meeting Recording:

https://alverno.zoom.us/rec/share/eM4L_zl_xxywWaSidtZ4WSV9AEGYcEe0XgmsuiigYTZ36NTqIB25RFi8F3KYqy-6.c_mTU816_NBvCrCQ

Access Passcode:

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Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the Potawatomi and Menominee peoples have stewarded this land throughout the generations. The land on which we gather is seized territory from the 1833 Treaty of Chicago.

We acknowledge that in Milwaukee, we live on the traditional homelands of the Ho-Chunk, Menominee, and Potawatomi peoples. We are located near the southwest shores of Michigami, the largest system of freshwater lakes in North America, where the three rivers, Milwaukee, Menominee, and Kinnickinnic meet, and where the sovereign Anishinaabe, Oneida, Ho-Chunk, Menominee and Mohican nations remain present in the state of Wisconsin. We give thanks for their presence, and for the presence of Native American students, staff, faculty, and alumnae in the Alverno community.

We take a moment of silence to honor this land and its peoples. We repent of the ways we have erased these stories and cultures. And we ask for wisdom in fostering greater understanding and celebration of Indigenous communities in Wisconsin.

Why Land Acknowledgement?

Kaitlin Curtice, citizen of Potawatomi Nation:

“Land acknowledgement is about listening, it is about remembering, and it is about rejecting invisibility. It’s about acknowledging the voice of creation, a voice that will continue to speak whether we listen or not. And if we are learning anything in America in the twenty-first century, it’s that restoration and healing are desperately needed.”



Curtice, Kaitlin B. *Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2020.



Resources

- www.native-land.ca
- *Honor Native Land Acknowledgement Guide* (pdf), U.S. Department of Arts and Culture
<https://usdac.us/nativeland>
- *Native Governance Center*
<https://nativegov.org/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/>

< Map <https://theways.org/map.html>

Eyes to See (AJCU Anti-Racism Examen)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-7k24NzdSA>

What feelings do the voices and images in the video elicit in me?

With what did I resonate?

With what did I experience resistance?

What experiences of racism have I had or seen on our campus?

What stories about race stick in my memory and influence how I think about racism now?



Two Questions

A silhouette of a person's head and shoulders is visible against a bright, cloudy sky. The person is facing right, and their profile is clearly defined against the lighter background. The overall tone is contemplative and reflective.

What Have We Done?

The Examen invites us to take an honest, unvarnished look at Alverno's past, not to be paralyzed by it, but to know it and discern a way forward. When have we been proud of being an inclusive and equitable community? When have we failed our students, faculty and staff of color?

What Are We Doing?

At the 1963 March on Washington, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke powerfully of the "fierce urgency of now." What are we doing today to stretch our identity as an anti-racist college? Whose help do we need to interrupt patterns of systemic racism in our institution?

A silhouette of a person's head and shoulders is shown in profile, facing right. The person is looking out over a bright, hazy sky with soft clouds. The lighting is soft and diffused, creating a contemplative mood.

What Ought We to Do?

The *Examen* leads to choice-making and imagination about the future. Given what we know about ourselves and our world, how is our college called to respond? What is the moral imperative of our mission, and what kind of college ought we to co-create now with each other?

The background image shows a large crowd of people gathered at night in front of a building with a prominent clock tower. The scene is dimly lit, with some lights visible on the building and the crowd. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

A Prayer for Racial Justice

When we do not see the gravity of racial injustice, Shake us from
our slumber and open our eyes.

When out of fear we are frozen into inaction, Give us a
spirit of courage.

When we try our best but say the wrong things, Give us a
spirit of humility.

When the chaos of this dies down, Give us a
lasting spirit of solidarity.

When it becomes easier to point fingers outward, Help us to
examine our own hearts.

God of truth, in your wisdom, Enlighten Us.

God of love, in your mercy, Forgive Us. God of hope in
your kindness, Heal Us.

Creator of All People, in your generosity, Guide Us.

Racism breaks your heart,
break our hearts for what breaks yours.