

RACE AND RELIGION IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN PRESBYTERIANISM:  
resources for further study

Presbyterian Historical Society website

This source provides a wealth of information on relevant subjects. Those interested should consult in particular the following “topics of note” entries in the “History Online” section—i) Resources for Self Study on Race; ii) Presbyterians and Civil Rights; and iii) Presbyterians and the Civil War. In the “Research Tools” section they may also wish to consult the entries on “African American Leaders and Congregations,” especially the ones on Gayraud Wilmore and Katie Cannon.

*All Black Governing Bodies—The History and Contribution of All Black Governing Bodies*

A report produced by a PCUSA task force appointed by the denomination’s first black female General Assembly moderator, Dr. Joan Salmon Campbell. Containing a wealth of information on the history of black Presbyterians in the USA it was initially published in 1996 and is now available online.

Chappell, David. 2009 *A Stone of Hope—Prophetic Religion and the Death of Jim Crow* (University of North Carolina Press)

A respected scholarly account of the history of the Civil Rights Movement, told with particular emphasis on the role of the churches in shaping the course of events.

Gillespie, Rev. G.T. “A Christian View of Segregation”

The text of an address delivered at a meeting of the PCUS Synod of Mississippi in 1954. It is a good example of the kind of thinking that was common in mainline Protestant circles in the South at the time when Jim Crow policies were in force.

Noll, Mark. 2011 “Theology, Presbyterian History and the Civil War”, *Journal of Presbyterian History*, v. 51 (spring/summer)

An examination of the intense debate over the Bible’s teaching about slavery in the years leading up to the Civil War by a respected church historian. It is now available on the website of the Presbyterian Historical Society in the section on “Presbyterians and the Civil War.”

Staniunus, David. “A call for reparations”, website of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, May 25, 2020

A retrospective on the PCUSA’s response to the demand in 1969 of the Black Economic Development Conference that the religious communities in America play an active role in bringing about the payment of reparations to the Black population for the injustices inflicted on them by Whites.

Wilmore, Gayraud. 1983/2003 *Black Religion and Black Radicalism—An Interpretation of the Religious History of African Americans* (Orbis)

An overview of the history of Black religion in the United States by a scholar-activist who was the most prominent Black Presbyterian in the Civil Rights struggle in the 1960’s. He was the director of the UPCUSA’s Commission on Religion and Race in those years and also taught at “taught at various seminaries, including Pittsburgh, where Gary Pinder was one of his students.