Racial Healing Team Reading List I:

**The Color of Law**, by Richard Rothstein. This is a history of how our government intentionally segregated and oppressed people of color.

**Just Mercy**, by Bryan Stevenson. The director of the Equal Justice Initiative highlights a couple of his cases and synthesizes them into his philosophy of caring for those most in need.

**Becoming Ms. Burton**, by Susan Burton. This is an autobiography about a woman whose son was hit and killed by a police car in front of her house, the traumatic response that led her to be incarcerated many times, and her transformation to wholeness that led her to supporting formerly incarcerated women out of a life of recidivism.

**An American Marriage**, by Tayari Jones  This is a rich portrayal of a contemporary African-American marriage torn apart by racism, wrongful conviction, incarceration and betrayal.

**Last Stop on Market Street** by Matt De La Pena  What seems to be a story about a typical Saturday in the lives of a young boy and his wise grandmother is actually a powerful account of how people with few resources give back. For ages 4 to adult.

**Ruth and the Green Book** by Calvin Alexander Ramsey with Gwen Strauss  This is the story of a Black family traveling from their Chicago home to Alabama in the early 1950’s. Along the way, they are not treated well and have difficulty finding lodging and food, but they are able to continue to their destination after discovering the Green Book. For ages 7 to adult.

**The Other Side** by Jacqueline Woodson This story is about how two young girls--one Black, one White--come together in spite of warnings to stay apart. Powerful and poignant, this book has hope written into its pages. For ages 5 to adult.

**White Flour** by David LaMotte (local musician and activist) Cleverly written in verse, this book tells the story of a real event involving the Ku Klux Klan in Knoxville, Tennessee. For ages 7 to adult.

Yes, you will notice some children’s books on this list.  If you have a child or grandchild to read aloud to, these are great.  If you do not have a child or grandchild to read to, these are also great for you to simply read on your own.  Trust.

This list is intentionally short to not overwhelm anyone.  Don’t fret, more book lists are in your near future!