



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

A Study Guide to the video

Transformative Lutheran Theology: Feminist, Womanist and Mujerista Perspectives

The video you are about to view is a result of a watershed theological event for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that took place January 23-24, 2009, in Chicago, Illinois, “Transformative Lutheran Theologies: Feminist, Womanist, and Mujerista Perspectives.” Over 150 leaders in the ELCA from multiple ethnic communities, young and old, lay and rostered, men and women, came together for theological insights. Over two days, everyone listened to rigorous keynote presentations and participated in small group discussions and plenary question and answer sessions. Each speaker’s presentation offered critical and constructive engagement with different theological topics, including the doctrine of God, Christology, theological anthropology, and Christian ethics.

During this event, six theologians were interviewed to share their insights about the key distinguishing features of womanist, mujerista, and feminist theologies, their relationships to Lutheran theology, and the gift of transformation that these theologies hold for the church. For many years, these theologies have remained marginal to the central theological engagement of Lutheran ministry and mission. The conference organizers and speakers offer the theological insights of this conference to the church at large—for the sake of the transforming power of the Gospel in the world and the church.

This video was produced as an introduction to the central features of feminist, womanist, and mujerista theologies and to some salient connections to Lutheran theology. The Justice for Women program hopes that these insights will be an invitation to further education, dialogue, and transformation—in the church and in the world.

Study Guide Questions

1. What surprised or struck you the most in the video? Why do you suppose this is so?



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

2. The theologians interviewed here think that womanist, mujerista, and feminist theologies matter for the church. Why do they think this? What resonated the most for you from their responses? Why? Was there anything about why they think these theologies matter with which you disagree?

3. Both womanist and mujerista theologies are described as carrying a listening function in their communities. Why do you think this theological function of listening in context might matter for the church?

4. What are one or two of the best insights you heard on why and how mujerista, womanist, and feminist theologies serve as a *critical function* in theology and in the church? Why do these insights appeal to you?

5. What do you notice about the featured speakers in the video? Who is missing? What are you doing in your own context to contribute to advanced theological training for women from many ethnic communities?

6. List things you would now like to find out about these theologies.

7. What is one way in which you could share the theological insights from this video with others?