

Readings for April 28, 2024

James 5:13-16

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Holy. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; God will raise them up. If they have missed the mark, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your mistakes to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a whole person is powerful and effective.

Another Sacred Text

John Dorhauer Confession

One day earlier, at a United Black Christians' luncheon, then General Minister and President the Rev. John Dorhauer [apologized for the UCC "cutting off one of its limbs."](#) The Rev. Yvonne Delk — a renowned leader within the UCC who traces her heritage through the Afro-Christian Convention and is the editor of [a new book on that tradition](#) — said in her keynote for the luncheon that such an apology should come at a "bigger mic."

The next afternoon, that's exactly what happened. During last summer's national gathering of the United Church of Christ, Dorhauer spoke to the church gathered from all over the world for its bi-annual convocation:

I grieve that, now having celebrated our 66th anniversary, three generations of United Church of Christ children have gone through confirmation being told that there were only four streams present at our birthing," Dorhauer said. "There were always five.

He asserted that the absence was "a white supremacist rewriting of church history," and called the exclusion of Afro-Christianity from its rightful place alongside the other traditions a sin. Dorhauer said:

On behalf of the United Church of Christ, and to the leaders active in and descended from the Afro-Christian stream of our beloved faith, and in recognition of the sin of centering whiteness, I hereby issue an apology for my and our complicity in and with the manifestations of white privilege that motivated some us to set this table without you.