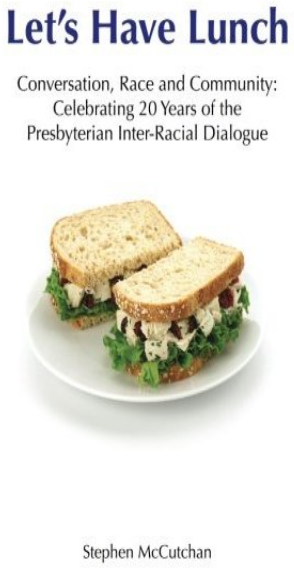
Let's Have Lunch
Conversation, Race and Community:
Celebrating 20 Years of the
Presbyterian Inter-Racial Dialogue
Stephen McCutchan

Let’s Have Lunch: Conversation, Race and Community by Stephen McCutchan

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Let’s Have Lunch celebrates the twenty-year journey that a group of clergy and their churches took in order to confront the toxic presence of racism in the community of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. It is a story of hope that begins with three people having lunch in 1992. It is the story of the power of community to overcome divisions. It is a story of ordinary people tryng to understand and act against the force of racism. It is the story of the creative ways that the people of six churches addressed the issue of race. It is the story of how that effort expanded to include the inter-faith community. It is an invitation to the readers to refuse to be defeated by the complex issue of racism. It is an invitation to have lunch and be open to the unexpected and inspiring things that can happen.

Steve spent thirty-eight years in the pastoral ministry interpreting the Gospel to lay people who

experience the tension of division in their world. For twenty-three years, he combined ministry with his middle-class congregation with monthly involvement in counseling the poor in his city. He helped found the Presbyterian Inter-RacialDialogue that in November, 2012 celebrated twenty years working with six Presbyterian churches, three predominantly black and three predominantly white, building community that breaks down the barriers of racism. He also helped establish a Hispanic ministry in Winston-Salem. His church has participated in regular activities with the Jewish community. Five times the church shared in an interfaith, interracial Habitat build that included Christians, Jews, and Muslims; Caucasians, Blacks, and Hispanics. He has been a featured speaker at Moravian, Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, and Presbyterian convocations.

The author published *Experiencing the Psalms* with Smyth & Helwys that in 2000, received the Jim Angell award from the Presbyterian Writer's Guild for the best first book published by a Presbyterian in that year. He has published dozens of articles in various religious journals, three devotional books based on the lectionary, and a commentary on Matthew, *Good News for a Fractured Society*. He has coauthored two plays exploring racism, one of which has been performed several times.

Since retirement in 2006, he has focused on developing resources to assist in the care of clergy. These include two CDs, *A Deep Well for the Pastor* and *Laughter From the Well.* The latter builds on his interest in performing standup comedy. He has also led webinars on both writing and the care of clergy and edits the Newsletter for the Presbytery Pastoral Care Network, www.pastoralcarenetwork.org. He blogs regularly on various aspects of the support of clergy. His website is www.smccutchan.com.