



Dr. Nancy Cardoso Pereira

Environmental Justice in Brazil

Dr. Nancy Cardoso Pereira is an ordained minister in the Methodist Church of Brazil who works with the Land Pastoral Commission. She conducts grassroots education especially with groups of peasant women, *quilombolas* (African Brazilians), and native women in the struggle for land rights. Dr. Cardoso lives in Mato Grosso with the peasant communities in the Amazon region. The peasant movement in Latin America seeks to transform agrarian and agricultural structures with processes of land reform that are more inclusive as a way to reconcile people and land in rural and urban areas.

Session 6: Environmental Justice in Brazil

Supplies Needed

- A flower pot with loose soil that can be touched
- Sheets of construction paper
- Markers
- Painter's tape (blue has the least adhesive)
- A notebook or paper for capturing words, thoughts, ideas on paper
- "Listening and Looking Guide" (copy for each participant)
- Copy of "Invitation to Conversation"
- Recruit someone to read aloud the invitation.

Getting Started (10 minutes)

Read aloud the Invitation to Conversation. Then read aloud Nehemiah 5:1–8. Have a time for prayer—can be a private or corporate prayer.

Pass around the flower pot and ask everyone to touch the soil, feel it, smell it—connect with it. As people are touching the soil, introduce the video, saying that Reverend Nancy Cardoso is an activist working on behalf of the indigenous peoples in Brazil who have been forcibly removed from their land and in some cases have been murdered or disappeared. Note that in the video she quotes this passage from Nehemiah as a biblical reference for abuse of people and property in one's own country.

Distribute the Listening and Looking Guide

Ask persons to make an attempt to define environmental racism based on their current understandings. Then ask them to familiarize themselves with the questions as a way of opening themselves to Dr. Cardoso's presentation.

Play the Video (18–20 minutes)

Encourage participants to jot short notes on the guide but as much as possible remain focused on listening to and experiencing the video.

Personal Reflection Time (5 minutes)

Ask participants to answer at least three of the nine questions on the Listening and Looking Guide.

Build a Word Art Wall (5 minutes)

Distribute sheets of construction paper and markers. Ask participants to write a word that they heard in the video presentation on a sheet of paper (participants may submit more than one word, but each word should be on a single sheet of paper). Arrange the words on a wall, a white board, or on the floor (words can be taped horizontally or vertically).

Discussion Time, Part 1 (15 minutes)

Work in groups of three to four persons. Using the guide, invite participants to answer the questions and discuss ideas and images that stand out for them. Give a ten-minute signal and ask each group to share one thing that has been part of their discussion—only one comment per group because time is needed for part 2.

Discussion Time, Part 2 (3–5 minutes)

Bring the group back together as a whole and say that there is a tenth question: "And now what?" Now that we have seen and heard, what should the church do? What should individuals do? Allow the group to share popcorn style.