**Youtha Interview**

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**You have a personal connection to a landmark decision of the Supreme Court – could you tell us more?**

**Mildred father’s first cousin – the situation is one I have been aware of ever since this came into the public eye because of this connection. Seen,read about and met Mildred over the years. We are members of the Jeter family.**

**You met Mildred – what was she like? Did you ever meet Richard?**

**Met mildred for rhte first time when my first cousins were the organizers for the family reunion. One thing we did was to hire a bus and take family members all over the US on a tour of various people that were part of damily history. One thing was to go to Mildred’s home and her children. That was the occasion - she was an adult. Was in late 1980’s after 1988. She was in**

**Mildred was a quiet unassuming person, didn’t have a lot to say, an older woman at that ppoint, glad we visited, unlike mnay other things that have been changing, they set up, it was personal,**

**That wasn’t their focus at all - there may have been a recognition later – a lot different for many of things people are moving on, they wanted to be married and live in the community in Virginia**

**It was illegal to be married at the time – having a sexual relations wasn’t a problem – the power situation – how would it have been different if the man had been black he would have been linched**

**Richard died in the 1970s, at the time of the legal thing and at his death, she was in Japan.**

**What was the signifigance of the Loving case, then and for today, in your opinion?**

**It calls attention to the fact that even that we may look differently, but we are all members of the human race. The extent to which people used to believe that the blood was different but that is not true – when you look at children that are born from parents who came out of different ethnic culture, even in the same family, children pick up genetic differences – she and her sister had three children – both had one dark children and two light one - fathers were darker – you can see that the characteristic that the genetics are there to reach back – she went to church with two twins one was very dark and one very light –part of looking at these children from these marraiges reminds people we ar all part of the human raece. This case was used in the argument about marriage equality - it also give a legan and historical preisdence for battling new iunjustices – it is important for us to address injustice issues wherever we can to say this is wrong – even if we don’t see what we can do, when yuou see others, you need to stand up - gives people courage and an example**

**The 2016 film “Loving” was based on your relatives’ experience. You used it to start a group discussion last night at Trinity UMC. Why do you use the Loving case to talk about social issues?**

**She didn’t intiate it – my congregation – Mary Beth knew we had a connection – last fall Mary Beth called and asked for a seminar around Loving – she and Christian Formation worked on this – it was from the beginning, that is a congregation has a welcoming statement, may have come up in the context about the issues around LGBQI issues, did we want to be a reconciling network – I did a presentation in that process about homosexuality – not clear on how all that evolved – that was where the seeds were planted – it is an impactful decision on the LGBQAI issues that the church is struggling with, we needed to focus on that it offered the ooporutnity to speak about a change around a social issues and help us think about the current social issues that we are confronted by and how we can make a change. More people are more settled across ethnic and cultural bases, than settled to marriage equality -this was a case that was settle, people are not thinking about htat issue any more -**

**We can look at other kinds of things – there are others who had not heard the history, it was very recently that woman got the vote. There are other examples that could be looked at, especially young people in the room with us last night, the Loving case was out of their history, think that those children has never lived in the US in a black and white world – I am not sure I will live to see it, people will look back and say “what?’ about the things we are struggling with now.**

**In the discussion, we explored the beliefs that underpin much of the social issues in US society then and now. How can we move from insight to action?**

**When I did a presentation at a church last year, I talked about how it is good to get to know people who are different. Very often, what we do is that we do it in groups – invite just them to build real relationships – group invite is different than a personal relationship. You begin to stand understanding in both groups that way.**

**You can intentional seek to learn about people who are different by art you look at, the books you read, the movies you see, it is always that issue of being in holy conversation, be honest about your belief, it is really important to do respectful communications – we all bring expectation – if we can create safe places for people to be in dialogue, that is important – also for us to recognize that our hidtorys are personal - the ways in which we things have shaped us – it is about risk taking, for those of us who claim to be Christians, we follow a risk taker who took a lot of risks, said a risky things – we domesticate Jesus – “the first shall be last and the last first” 0 we need to be honest about who Jesus is and what he is calling us to do when saying “follow me” and if we are not, how can we change that. Likeness is the value is not it – God is a god of diversity so there must be some value to that.**

**Being able to respond – invites the other person to say what they think – ask a question – help me understand – illicites the possibility of a different kind of response – who is missing? This is not a diverse representation. Power of a question.**

**Wesley’s history – we don’t have to go back very far – in terms of faculty, Wesley was a white institution – looking at that and what we have now is one way to open the eyes of the current community who don’t know that history – what was Wesley like when it came from Wesrminister when it moved to Washington? Then and now, a way to talk about the racial situation in the US but looking at the lens through our own institution -**

**Suggest it and see what happens – that is a suggestion for Youtha – it is important that people don’t know our history – if they don’t know our history –truth not ignorance helps us – look back at the history of our institutinos, our schools for insights .**

**How have things changed since the Loving ruling? How have things stayed the same?**

**Our students and graduates will or are already grappling with the social issues we discussed in their ministerial lives. What can they learn from the Lovings’ experience to guide their thinking and their ministry in social justice to end oppression?**

**IT is the firsttime she has used it - the thing that is the powerful piece, we are talking about the social issues, we are talkinga bout peoples’ real lives – it is not abstract for people who are marginalixed, it is a personal thing – that is power about the Lovings story, they had no political agenda – some go to the Supere court with a political agenda – we need to be constantly aware of that all social issues impact live, breathing human beings in a hurtful way – you don’t have to think – what society was saying t the time It is ok to sleep with her don’t marry here – how does that fit with our cristina valute? oK to use her, don’t resp[ect by marrying her – the color situation in the Jeter family – she is ‘darK” – she was so light – her grandmother looked like a white woman – the white and black Jeter – they were always kind but they were onsider to be on the other sife – our family history can endenuter servant who serve in the US, went to England, came back, got land, one strufte at structure at Ustus in Tidewater area of - 12 children, he recognized – people whoes education was limited, white people recording the name – name spelt in different ways - Mother father and children when they do the race thing – they are colored and mulato – some aunt and uncles were very light – uncle Richard was browner – based decisions**

**Do you have a picture with yourself and Mildred Loving? Or of the couple with family members? Hard to access –mainly picurer of immediate family**

**Would love to know that people who read it that they write down as the social issues that are dividing us in our contemporaty lives – what are the beliefs that have generated these social issues and divisions – how muvh of those beliefs are part of their own heritage?**

**She didn’t do a leature – was trying to get the voices in the room out where people could hear them – What a difference for them to say it**

**15 months interim pastorate for a non-denominational church -**