

The Interesting History of Race Relations in and around Livingston County

A Presentation by Dr. Leo E. Hanifin

To help us understand our history of race relations in Livingston County, Dr. Leo Hanifin wrote “A Brief History of Race Relations in Livingston County,” covering the relationships of the first European settlers to Native Americans up to today’s race relations. This short book is based on archival resources in the county’s libraries ranging back to the early 1800’s and newspaper articles ranging back to the mid-1800’s, plus interviews related to more recent years.



In his presentation, Dr. Hanifin will summarize some of the most interesting and surprising bits of this history, and add a few personal reflections on the significance of this history to our current and future community. He will also touch on the larger developments in America and SE Michigan that influenced our county, and close with some personal perspectives on the past and future of race relations in our community.



About the speaker: Dr. Hanifin is Dean Emeritus at the University of Detroit Mercy. In addition to this book and related presentations, Dr. Hanifin has been active in enabling better understanding of race and racism through activities in local churches and communities, including:

- Developing and offering *A Lenten Journey with the Prophets for Racial Equity* at a local Catholic Church
- Editing or authoring 23 articles on social justice and racism in three Catholic parishes
- Facilitating Just Faith’s *Faith and Racial Healing* program in 2025 for Livingston County Residents
- Chairperson – Livingston Faith and Race Project (a coalition of pastors and members from Livingston County churches)

To learn more about the Faith and Race Project go to <https://livingstonfaithandraceproject.org>