

[View this email in your browser](#)



What does it mean to *have the courage of one's convictions* on matters of racial equity and justice?

Now and then I seek out donors to understand what inspired them to [support EmbraceRace](#). That's how, just two weeks ago, I met a woman I'll call Sharon.

Sharon is a White mom raising three young White daughters in a Black neighborhood in Philadelphia. She and her husband, both from California, moved there after being "shattered" by the murders of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and others. Devout Christians, they were also deeply troubled by the silence of their church in response.

Sharon began reading Black writers on a wide range of issues, including race and history. She learned that halting and partial efforts to "desegregate" churches in the civil rights era typically meant closing Black churches and folding parishioners into White ones.

She realized that no Black teacher, pastor, or friend had ever been a guest in her home.

When they returned to the U.S. and moved to Philly after six years abroad, she told her husband, "We cannot go to a church where the pastor is white. We need to be under Black leadership."

For six years they rented to avoid fueling gentrification, eventually buying the house only after discussing the possibility with their Black neighbors. Their daughters attend mostly Black schools. All their books feature children of color as protagonists. None of their dolls is White. The family attends a Black church.

"My daughters are living my convictions," Sharon says.

It hasn't been easy—there's been some bullying at school, and tension with relatives who question their choices. People send her crime statistics for Philadelphia.

There have also been breakthroughs: her 81-year-old mother-in-law, once skeptical, now visits often and leads a church book club on racism. "She did work and continues to do work to talk about race and live differently," Sharon says.

I share this story not to endorse Sharon's choices as a Christian, a White person, a racial justice advocate, or a caregiver to young children—or invite criticism about them. Instead, I'm holding them up as one couple's answer to a question we all face: How far will we go to align our lives with our racial convictions?

Having convictions is easy. Living them is the real act of faith.

I'm moved by Sharon's story, and proud that EmbraceRace has been a steady companion on her journey.

Every day, we hear from people asking, *How do I talk to my kids about race? How do I choose schools and communities? What books should we read—and how do we read them? How do I handle pushback from friends and family?*

We built EmbraceRace because none of us should have to figure all this out alone. Your support makes it possible for us to offer the tools, stories, and spaces that turn good intentions into meaningful action.

Yes, I support EmbraceRace!

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

Please put your convictions into action by supporting EmbraceRace today.

Sincerely,

Andrew Grant-Thomas
Co-Founder, EmbraceRace