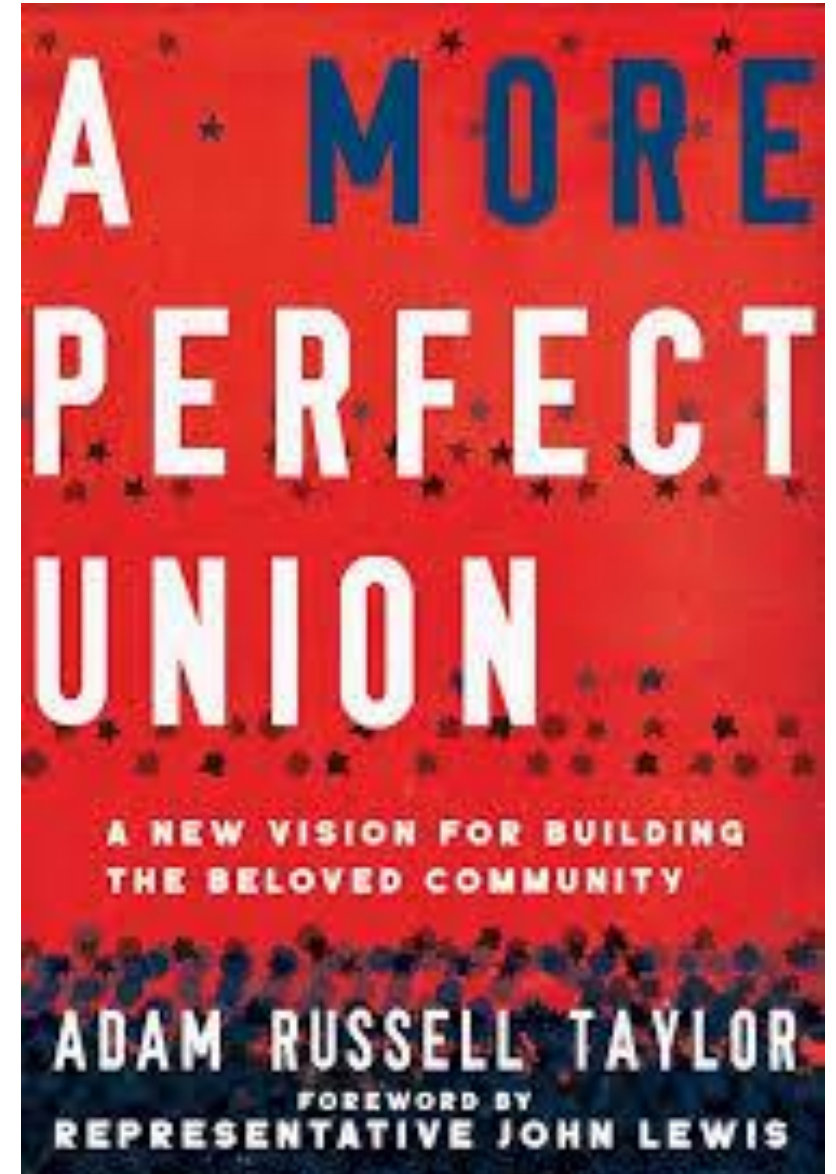


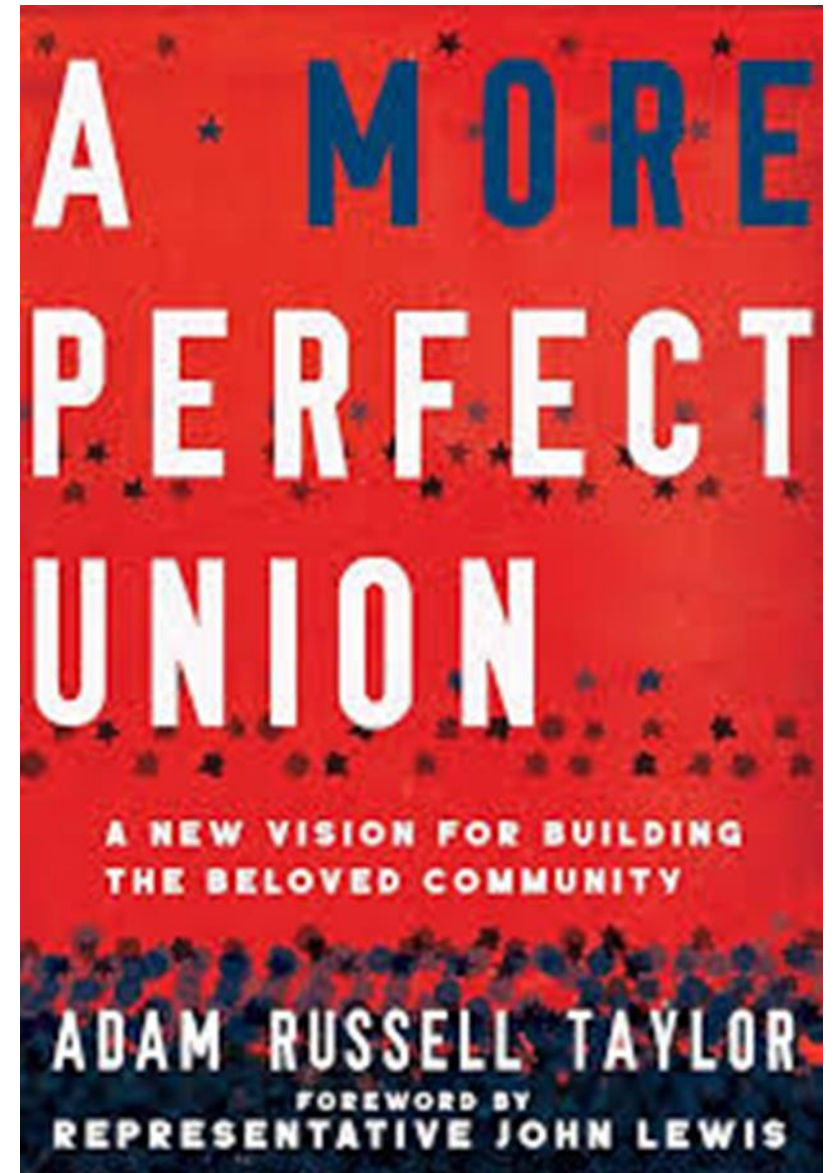
# The Big Read: A Spring Book Discussion Opportunity

Session One

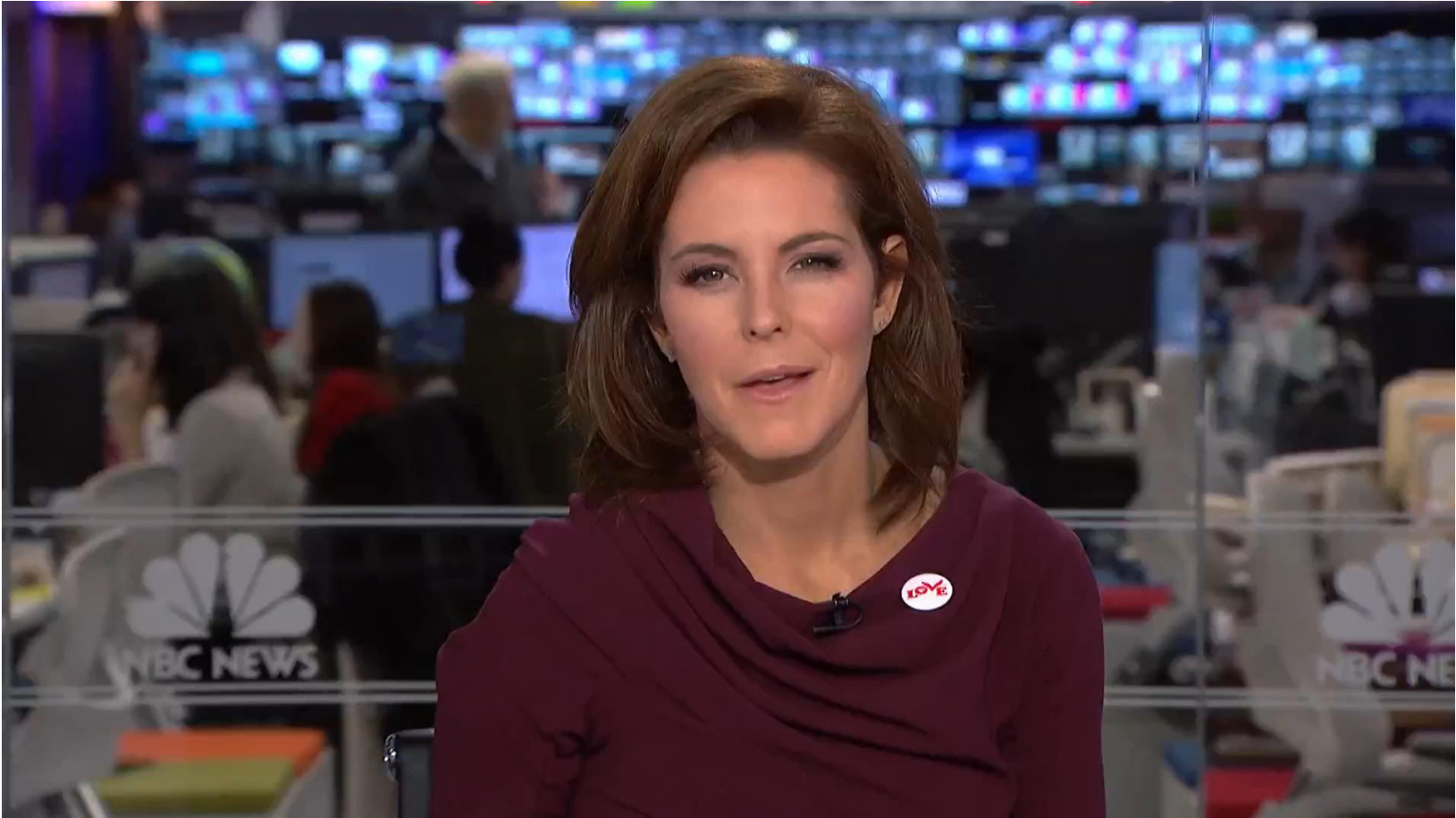


# Getting To Know You

What word, image or phrase best captures what you want America to be?

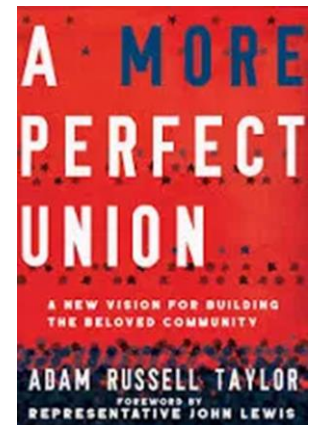


# The Hidden Tribes Study: A Divided Country



# Book Discussion #1

- The book mentions that the United States has not been this polarized since the 1960s. Do you agree?
- How concerned are you about that polarization?
- What forces and causes do you think are behind our deepening divisions and polarization?



## Book Discussion #2

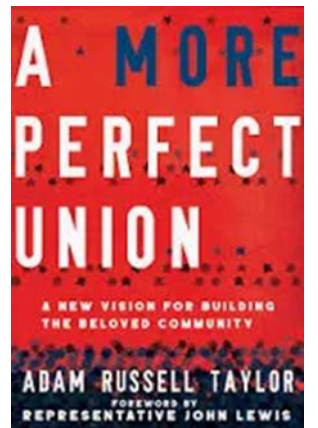
- In your view, how do we get from where the country is today to the vision of a Beloved Community set forth by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and so many other civil rights leaders?
- Where should we start?
- What do you think some of the steps will be along the way?
- What do you see as the main challenges?





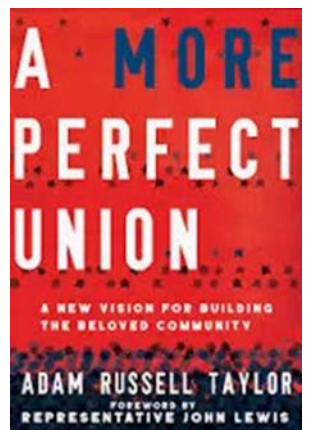
## Book Discussion #3

How do you define The Beloved Community in your own words?



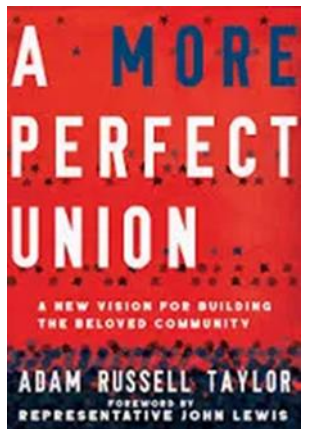
## Book Discussion #4

- What did you learn from this book about the systemic nature of racism?
- What are some examples that you have seen and/or experienced of systemic racism?
- What are some ways to help more of our nation to see growing racial diversity as a strength and not a threat?



## Closing Prayer

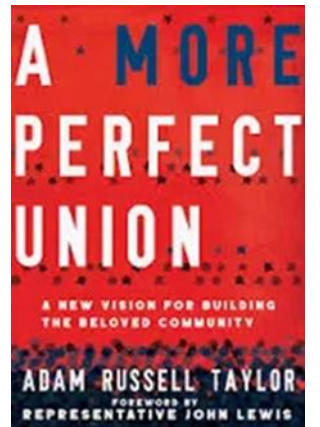
God, grant us wisdom and grant us courage until thoughts of destroying one another give way to deeds of embracing each other; until our policies prove our promise of equal justice under law; until we decide too many have been hurting too long.





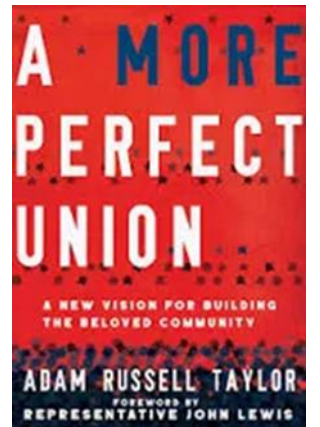
## Closing Prayer, Cont.

Grant us courage until in every way we show in our democratic process that everybody has a right to live; until we lift from the bottom so that everybody rises; until the stones that the builder rejected become the chief cornerstone of a new social reality.



## Closing Prayer, Cont.

Please, God, grant us wisdom, grant us courage, until the poor are lifted, the sick are healed, children are protected, and civil rights and human rights never neglected. Grant us wisdom for the facing of this hour until love and justice are never rejected.



## Closing Prayer, Cont.

Grant us wisdom and courage for the facing of this hour until, together, we make sure there is racial justice and economic justice and living-wage justice and health care justice and ecological justice and disability justice and justice for homeless and justice for the poor and low-wealth and working poor and immigrant justice—until we study war no more and peace and justice are the way we live.