

### Project summary

The East Durham Vital Worship Movement, a collective of six churches in East Durham, spent a year learning the history of their neighborhood and incorporating it into their worship practices. They participated in learning experiences on demographic history, history of housing and business patterns, conducting oral histories, and applying history to worship. The project also includes participating in the Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope, a journey of discovering how Durham’s story, our stories, and God’s story are woven together. The culmination of the project is a collaborative worship service that incorporates what was learned.

### What we have learned

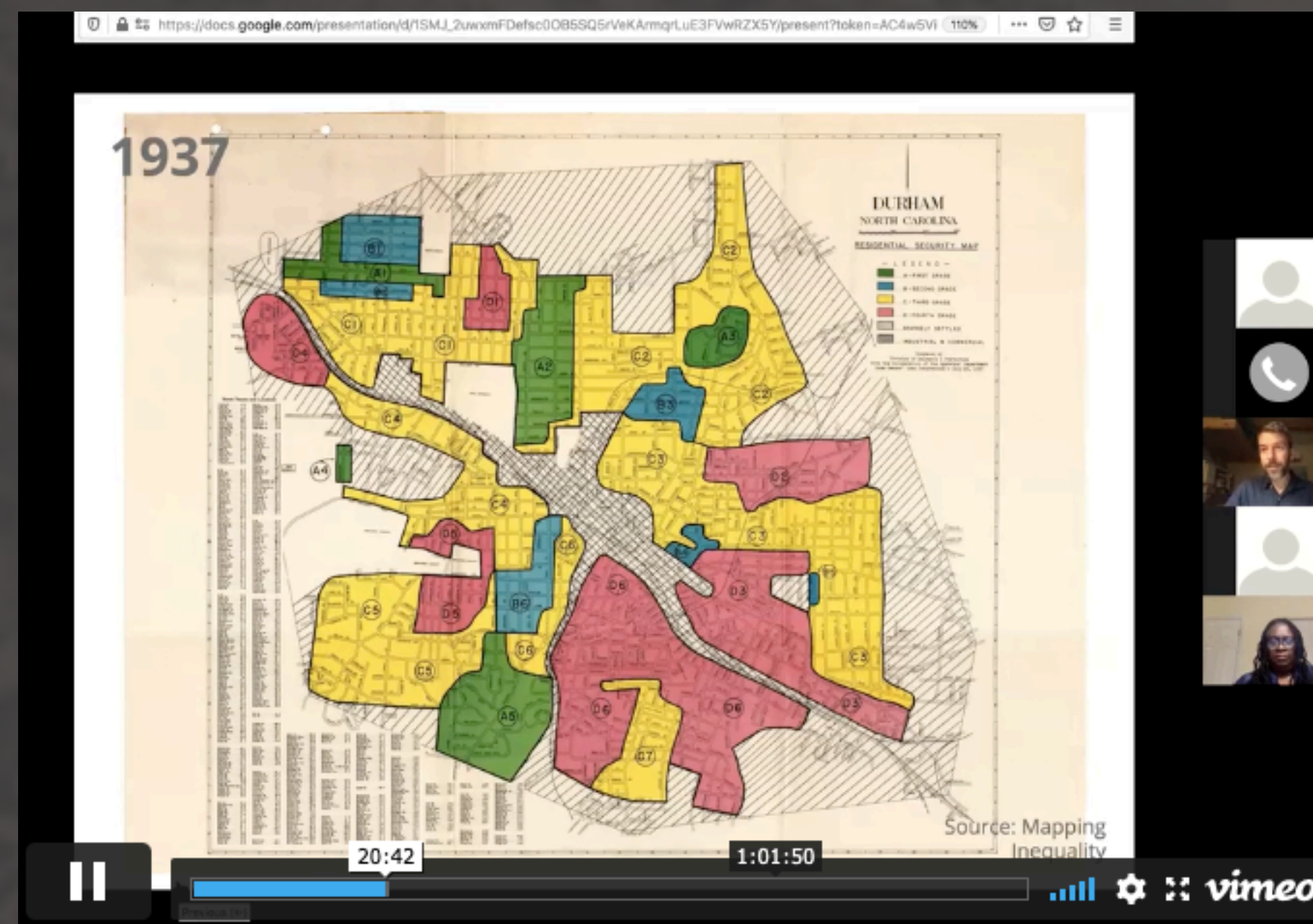
- The history of the neighborhood is directly related with the Church’s presence in the neighborhood and its collective worship life.
- Learning history can be a way to care for neighbors and make them feel welcome in worship.
- Churches hold much of the neighborhood’s history and reflect the history in its worship.
- Although neighborhood history impacts worship, not all congregants are aware of how it does.
- Church leaders learned the value of oral histories and how to conduct them.

### Highlights of our year

- Learning to conduct oral histories
- Learning history of East Durham
- Reflecting on the relationship between history and worship
- Participating in the Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope
- Putting on a collaborative neighborhood worship service



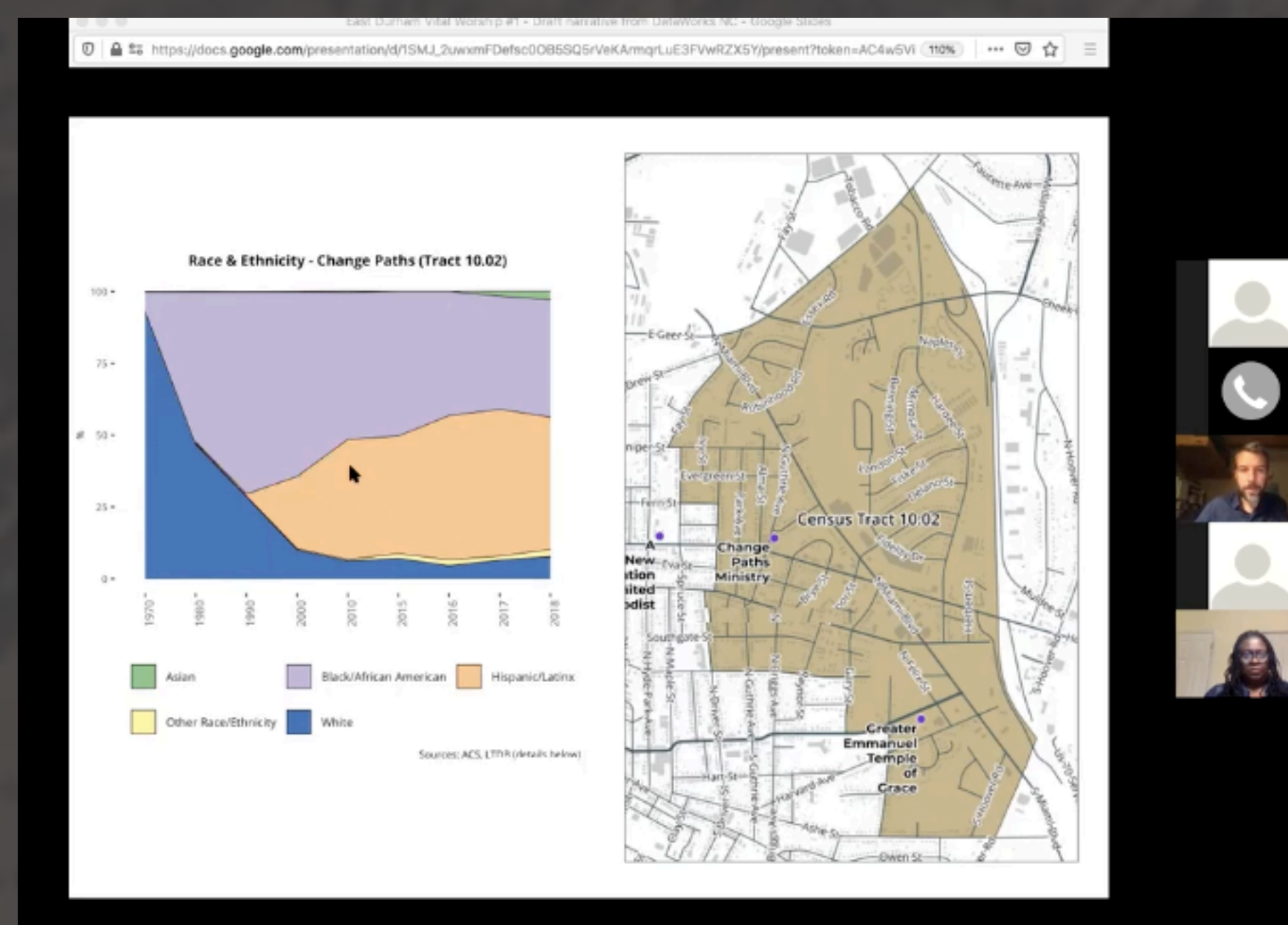
Dr. Charles Johnson, Chair of Public History at North Carolina Central University, teaches on conducting oral histories.



A redlining map of Durham.



East Durham ministers reflect on how neighborhood history shapes our worship practices.



Congregations learn about changes in race and ethnicity over time in their census tracts.

