

Racial Justice Task Force Minutes – 21 December 2017

In Attendance:

Generose Lambert, Jud Lawrie, Zoe Hart, Monica Sargent, Gabriel Ely

Agenda

- Opening Words (Zoe)
 - “Prayer in Reconciliation” by Anne Barker from *To Wake to Rise* edited by William Sinkford
- Racial justice struggles and highlights
- Approved November minutes
- Do we reimburse for Food at White Supremacy Teach-in from the RJTF budget?
 - Yes
- Do we recommend to Mara that we hold a congregational vote on hanging the Black Lives Matter banner, or hang the banner without some form of congregational vote?
 - Yes -given the email discussion, we feel empowered to make this decision with only 5 people in the room.
 - Gabriel will follow up with Christina V. and Zoe will follow up with Linda C. as they are the two RJTF members who attended the November meeting, but did not chime in on the email discussion.
 - The UU is equipt to hand a 7’X4’ banner in the front lawn.
 - We will proceed with getting a banner to hand there.
 - Zoe is pursuing an order with a local shop.
 - We agreed to keep the design simple with white lettering on a black background.
 - Do we pursue a statement of conscience?
 - Several of us think this is a good idea, but the banner is a priority for all.
 - It seems to make sense to put it for a vote at the annual meeting in June.
 - We will discuss it further at the January RJTF meeting.
- Logistics of the next steps in the discernment process
 - Do we combine increasing diversity objective with continuing education within the UU?
 - Gabriel will talk to the teach-in planning group about how they fit into this structure.
 - We want input on the process from POC in the FUUSB. It makes the most sense to get input before moving forward on a congregational level.
 - We think inviting POC to share a meal with us would be a good way to reach out and say thank you.
 - We will reach out to folks, then use a doodle poll to plan a time.
- Next meeting:
 - Date: January 18
 - Time: 5:00 – 6:30
 - Opening Words: Jud

Mission

The mission of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington (FUUSB) Racial Justice Task Force is to engage Society members and friends in the work of identifying, understanding, and undoing racism within ourselves, our faith community, and our broader society. While racism affects many different groups of people, at this time in our history the task force recognizes the urgency of racism as it affects black people in America.

We seek to understand and address the underlying attitudes and habitual responses to anti-black racism in America in our times, including white privilege and white fragility. We engage in this work through discussion, supporting racial justice work in the larger community, and participating in direct action.

Goals

1. Deepen the congregation's understanding of and engagement around racial justice issues to ensure that they're well prepared to be active and outspoken advocates for racial justice.
2. Continue the process for engaging the congregation in discerning our Society's work in Racial Justice and identify one or more projects for the FUUSB to pursue.
3. Pass a statement of conscience in support of Black Lives Matter and hang a Black Lives Matter Banner outside of the Meetinghouse.