



Minister's Column

Rev. Joel Miller
Interim Senior Minister
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In 189 years, our church has had a significant ministry for racial justice. It has been an outward focused ministry in the past. But as we come to better understand that racism is imbedded in our psyches, it's clear that we also have profound spiritual work to do within ourselves. If you would like to read more about this spiritual work, Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed wrote about our struggles as Unitarian Universalists with our racism [in this UU World article](#).

I've learned from members of our church who are people of color that it takes more than just reading for us to grow spiritually toward racial justice within our own selves. We need to be physically present for it. It's as much an emotional experience as it is an intellectual one.

There is an exciting conference at the end of this month at the UU Church in Buffalo that I invite you to attend: [Diving into Our White Culture to Surface Racial Justice](#). Kenny Wiley, who grew up Unitarian Universalist, is part of Black Lives Unitarian Universalist (BLUU), is a UU World senior editor, and program director for the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado. His writing has appeared in the Boston Globe, the Houston Chronicle, and Skyd Magazine.

I will be attending this conference, and I hope you will join me. The conference cost is a sliding scale, but our church has confidential scholarships available so that all who want to attend are able to (email me at jmiller@rochesterunitarian.org with questions or requests). Carpooling will also be arranged (watch for announcements).

This conference will also have parallel programming for people of color.

[Diving Into Our White Culture to Surface Racial Justice](#)
An Experimental Conference
Saturday, February 24, 9:00am to 4:00pm
UU Church of Buffalo
695 Elmwood Ave
Buffalo, NY 14222