

Anti-Racism

Responses from recent pastor annual review surveys indicated a strong interest in resources to assist pastors in facilitating conversations within their congregations regarding anti-racism. This is not surprising given the events of this past year and we feel it important to address this need. Our first thought was to host a virtual training event, however, as we explored, we found many readily available resources that may meet the needs of local congregations.

Living Water's 21 Week Anti-Racism Challenge Toolkit offers congregation members the opportunity to better understand systemic racism and to inspire local community engagement. This Challenge was developed by the YWCA of Greater Cleveland who has partnered with Living Waters Association to host the Challenge. The Challenge asks participants to make weekly time and space to build more effective social justice habits – particularly those dealing with issues of race, power, privilege and leadership for a period of 21 weeks. Each participant who registers receives daily tasks via e-mail to help foster their understanding and awareness about racial equity. Participants from a congregation can then meet to discuss the weekly Challenges. Weekly tasks may include articles to read, tips for developing social justice habits, or opportunities to reflect on personal experiences. Learn more here to determine if this may be right for your congregation:

<https://livingwaterone.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/21-Week-Challenge.pdf>

White Privilege: Let's Talk – A Resource for Transformational Dialogue, is a resource offered by the National UCC office. The UCC offers a full curriculum, divided in 4 parts, complete with lesson outlines and facilitator resources. In addition, there is a 6 session webinar series available at this site called White Privilege: Let's Talk, that is very comprehensive. Each session is led by national leaders within the UCC and other denominations and tells the story of spiritual journey through the lens of race and invites participants to become an ally in pursuit of racial equity. These resources are free and available by clicking the following link:

<http://privilege.uccpages.org/>

The UCC also offers an additional curriculum titled, "Sacred Conversations to End Racism". This program is led by Dr. Velda Love, Minister for Racial Justice and Local Church Ministries. Dr. Love will also be the keynote speaker for **The Heartland Faith Formation Conference, titled, "Live It: Engaging the Sacred Texts Through the Lens of Culture", which will be held virtually on 2/26 and 2/27/2021.** This conference includes significant time for small and large group discussion following her keynote addresses each day. The link to the Sacred Conversations site is:

https://www.ucc.org/sacred_conversations_to_end_racism/

Attached to the end of the newsletter is an additional list of available resources.

We hope that these resources meet the needs of pastors looking for resources to begin conversations regarding anti-racism within their congregations. If you have other ideas for how we may assist in bringing resources / training to you regarding this topic, please contact Nanette Warnecke-Flood at Nanettef@syclco.com