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The Richmond Pledge to End Racism monthly newsletter in an effort to help us maintain and build upon our pledge commitments.

In this issue, we are highlighting the efforts of Living the Pledge Workshop alumni workgroups that were formed to help us keep one another accountable when it comes to our pledge to end racism.

This moment in our nation demands our attention. We cannot ignore it and we cannot sit things out, even if the work that needs to be done feels so overwhelming.

July 2020

Expanding the Pledge

Are you interested in spreading the word about the Richmond Pledge to End Racism? We've been planning for ways to make more people in RVA aware of this effort, and we now have some tools for you to use!

Postcards & Bumper Stickers

Are you willing to hand out cards with the pledge to inform people you meet about this effort? Are you willing to put a Richmond Pledge to

End Racism bumper sticker on your car? We now have postcards and bumper stickers! They are available at the First Unitarian Universalist Church at 1000 Blanton Avenue in a bin just inside the door. Please help yourself to post cards (they are bundled in packets of 10) and a bumper sticker.





If you are interested in more than 50 postcards or are unable to stop by the building, please let us know by replying to this email. You may also download an electronic version of the card to pass along via email.

There may be opportunities at anti-racism rallies/protests or other anti-racism focused events to distribute postcards. Be sure to check with organizers, if any, to make sure it is appropriate. While there is no one, or right, way to approach people, the following "elevator pitch" might be helpful when approaching people you don't know.

"Hi, my name is _____. May I give you a Pledge to End Racism postcard? Great. On the back is our pledge. If it speaks to you, there is a website listed where you can go to sign the pledge and look at other opportunities for supporting the dismantling of systemic racism. Thank you for considering adding your voice."

Yard Signs



We are also working on having double-sided yard signs printed. We are requesting a donation of $12.50 apiece (about half of the cost). You can place your order here. If you'd like to have a sign but aren't able to pay for it at this time, let us know and we can provide one.

Influencing Governing Bodies

As it seeks to influence governing bodies to be and act in anti-racist ways, the group has identified three goals for itself:

1. To serve as an accountability group for members regarding our anti-racism work.
2. To create an email list to distribute time-sensitive political actions that people can take. An example would be advocating for several police reform issues at the special session of the General Assembly.
3. Create a resource directory of organizations that are relevant to anti-racist concerns such as eliminating mass incarceration and criminal justice reform.

Resources

This group will maintain a list of anti-racism organizations, online resources, books, and videos. Suggestions for the lists will come from all of the accountability groups.

The hope is to both annotate and curate the lists to help users identify items which are most useful for their context and passion. For example, identifying resources that are good for those just starting out vs. for those already deep into the work; labeling books/groups as to their focus (e.g. criminal justice reform, educational systems, etc.).

The list is in its nascent stage, but we'll share the link in the newsletter and include it on the Richmond Pledge website soon!

Upcoming Events

Community Townhall on Racial Equity and Policing Reform

- Thursday, August 6, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. EDT

You are invited to participate in a community conversation about racial equity and policing reform with Governor Northam and officials across the state. This virtual event will be held on August 6th from 6:00pm-7:30pm. Those interested in participating must pre-register here. Once registered, you will receive an email with individual details for joining the WebEx video conference. You are invited to pre-submit a question to the panelists when registering. And Richmond residents may wish to review Richmond Policing Policies 2020, a spreadsheet listing proposals in front of the Richmond city council regarding policing.

Voting Rights: The Struggle Continues

- Tuesday, August 25, at 7:30 p.m. EDT

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment, when white American women secured the right to vote, we'll focus this program on African American women and voting with special guests **Michelle Duster**, author, speaker, educator, and great-granddaughter of Ida B. Wells-Barnett, the iconic anti-lynching activist and suffragist; **Chevara Orrin**, author, diversity & inclusion practitioner, and daughter of civil rights leader Rev. James Bevel; and **The Hon. Andrea Jenkins**, author, poet , community Leader, and Vice-President of the Minneapolis City Council and first Black openly-transwoman elected to public office in the United States. Register here for this free program.

Living the Pledge Workshop News

We are excited to announce that the inaugural virtual Living the Pledge Workshop starting August 12 and running through September 23 is completely full! We have 41 participants along with 14 small group facilitators and alternates, 2 workshop leaders, and several folks providing logisitical support.

We also have over a dozen folks on the waitlist, so we are already beginning to think about when a second virtual workshop might

launch. Even though we do not have dates yet, continue to encourage folks to put themselves on our waitlist; we will notify those people first when another workshop is on the calendar and registration is open.



100 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice

This article continues to be updated to ensure each item is accurate and needed today, so we will keep sharing it to remind you to keep checking it!

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The Richmond Pledge to End Racism monthly newsletter is designed to help us maintain and build upon our pledge commitments. We hope this newsletter will be helpful. We welcome your suggestions and feedback.

If you *only* want to be updated about Richmond area Living the Pledge related activities (upcoming workshops, facilitator training, reunions, etc.) and do not wish to receive this monthly newsletter, you can update your profile. If you are not interested in receiving this newsletter or any updates or requests from the Richmond Pledge to End Racism, you can unsubscribe to all email communication.

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