

**UU Congregation of Charlottesville  
Racial Justice Committee meeting  
March 3, 2019**

**Present:** Ann Forno, Linda Dukes, Bob Gross, Shirley Paul, Frank Dukes, Edith Good, Cathey Polly

Discussion of Considering Our Name committee:

- Arguments that people make to keep the name:
  - It's historically important.
  - We need to accept that this is part of our history.
  - Jefferson is representative of this country, both for being forward-looking and oppressive.
  - Cville was his home, so having his name on it represents that, and we were given money for having this name, by the UUA.
  - Pastor Bates' comment on the topic: don't sweep this history under the rug.
- Arguments against having this name:
  - Is he really someone that represents ideals that we aspire to?
  - He didn't found this church, he wasn't a member, and he doesn't have anything to do with it.
  - The UUA loan has been repaid, so we don't have to stick to those terms any more.
  - We don't want to memorialize Thomas Jefferson any more; it's 2019, so our thinking has changed.
  - The name of our church offends people.
- Question of the timing of introducing this now:
  - We should be focusing on other problems in our church right now:
    - Budget problems
    - Leadership problems
    - People leaving
- Steps to take to change the name:
  - **Straw poll - Ann Forno will do this; Cathey offered to help**