

Minutes for Racial Justice Committee
UU Congregation of Charlottesville
Aug. 4, 2019

Volunteer chair for today: Debby Norton (Thank you, Debby!)

Volunteer recorder for today: Linda Dukes (Thank you, Linda!)

Attendance: Patty Wallens, Kate Fraleigh, Bob Gross, Marlene Jones, Edith Good, Shirley Paul, Frank Dukes, John Anderson, Jim Souter, Sallie Kate Park

Chalice lighting with words by Ruth King.

Check in on what's going on regarding racial justice in community and at church:

- (Kate) recognition of Frank for being pictured on the wall of activists on the Downtown Mall.
- Moms Demand Action (for gun control) protest this afternoon at Walmart (for selling guns)
- (Kate) Police Civilian Review Board by-laws will be discussed tomorrow (M, 8-5) at City Council meeting, 6:30. Wear a black shirt to show support.
- Exhibit at City Space about Daughters of Zion cemetery and Holsinger (historical) photos of African Americans, month of August
- Viewing of mini-series "When They See Us" about Central Park 5 case, Aug. 10, 11, 17, Jefferson School AAHC
- Community Sing-Out, Sat., Aug. 10, 4-6 p.m. at Pavilion downtown
- Pastoral Care circle at TJMC, after service on Aug. 11
- Interfaith service, Mon., **Aug. 12**, First Baptist Main Street
- Community Read discussion of *White Fragility* and/or *So You Want to Talk About Race* at Northside Library, Tues., Aug. 13, 7:00 p.m.
- Bob (and the rest) thanked Kate for providing her weekly email list of local activities about racial justice

Note: Google "Unity Days Charlottesville" for many other events!

AFD ideas for Fall:

- Shirley said she may offer a viewing and discussion of a youtube video with 3 Black basketball stars talking about microaggressions.
- Linda Dukes and Diane Ober have proposed offering "Seeing with New Eyes" on Monday evenings, Sept 30, Oct 7, 21, 28.

Ideas about RJ committee activities this year (to be further discussed at September meeting)

- 1) Support David Mellor's process for considering a name change for TJMC-UU. We would like David to attend our September meeting so we can hear where things stand.
- 2) Research and begin an "audit" of the church, looking at white supremacy culture. A couple of years ago, Linda and Kate looked at all the walls in our buildings and listed what we found.

We could start by looking at the White Supremacy Teach-in materials from the UUA and materials Kate found at <https://www.uua.org/blueboat/issues/reflection-on-white-supremacy-in-our-uua>

Linda, Frank, Jim, and Debby expressed an interest in thinking about this. Frank suggested that it would be great to get Robin DiAngelo to come to speak! After the meeting, Kate suggested that we begin by looking at our own RJ committee and said she might be interested in helping with this. Others suggested we look at how our board functions and our pledge drive.

(Update: Ann Forno, Kate Fraleigh, Jim Souder, and Linda Dukes met and looked at the materials that Kate has gathered on this topic. Ann has scanned them and will be sharing them with this group. We meet again on Aug 28.)

Other:

Marlene suggested ways to organize that she has found effective for change. These include getting a few people to investigate a plan/course of action and bring the results to the committee for endorsement. Then have cottage conversations to explain the idea to the congregation and gain recruits to help process. Put committee agenda with specific topics to be discussed in the weekly email at least two weeks in advance.

John suggested that we be more encouraging to other members of the congregation to join us.

Closing reading and extinguishing chalice

Date of next meeting:

Sun, Sept 1, 11:30 am - 1 pm (after the 10 am service)

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