Racial Justice Coordinator
NY Conference Annual Report 2020

Program Development

• Co-wrote with Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams the Racial Diversity Assessment for the NY Conference of the UCC.
• Co-wrote with Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams the “Diversify Document” that is part of the follow-up to the Racial Diversity Assessment.
• Created a seven-session curriculum (with the assistance of Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams) for use in the NY Conference’s New & Right Spirit Program. This curriculum is titled “New & Right Spirit: Let’s Talk Race” and includes the following:
  o Session 1
    ▪ White Like Me video documentary and discussion
  o Session 2
    ▪ Your Experience of Race
    ▪ The Construct of Race
  o Session 3
    ▪ The History of Racism
    ▪ Anglo-Saxon Identity and Manifest Destiny
    ▪ The Black Body and The Value Gap
  o Session 4
    ▪ Implicit Bias
    ▪ Understanding White Privilege
    ▪ Micro-aggressions
  o Session 5
    ▪ Everyday Racism in a “Post-racial” World
    ▪ The Cash Value of Whiteness (Economics and Housing)
  o Session 6
    ▪ The Cash Value of Whiteness (Criminal Justice System and Voting)
  o Session 7
    ▪ Non-racist vs. Anti-racist
    ▪ Becoming a Racial Justice Ally
• Created a one-hour per session version of the above curriculum so the modules can be adapted to various settings.

Community Presentations

• Led “New & Right Spirit: Let’s Talk Race” in Binghamton in the early part of 2019 culminating in an ecumenical Racial Unity Service at First Congregational UCC, Binghamton just before the beginning of Lent. The service included people from seven denominations, the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers, the Festive Ringers from Fairview UMC, liturgical dancers from River of Life Ministries, and Dr. Aloja Airewele as guest preacher (he is involved in the areas of social justice, pastoral ministry and community building). Well over 100 people were in attendance for this community event.
• Led “New & Right Spirit: Let’s Talk Race” in Homer in the fall of 2019 at Homer Congregational UCC. There were 30 people in attendance from Homer, Cortland, and Ithaca.
• Hosted film screening of White Like Me with conversation for the Binghamton-area group, Children of Abraham, which consists of people from congregations covering all three Abrahamic faith traditions. In April 2020, I will partner with Children of Abraham to show the documentary and have discussion about it. The plan is to co-host a multi-faith training in the fall of 2020.
utilizing the New & Right Spirit: Let’s Talk Race curriculum coupled with additional information from a Jewish and Islamic perspective.

- Hosted a five-session, one-hour per session New & Right Spirit: Let’s Talk Race at the Phillips Free Library in Homer. There were 23 people in attendance, and it was described by the librarian as one of the most well-attended night-time events at the library.
- Led a presentation on racism through Practical Resources for Churches.
- Preached at Henrietta UCC and led post-worship racial justice training (Fall 2018).
- Co-led racial diversity training with Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams for Intersections in Manhattan (in fall 2018).

Racial Diversity Assessments and Diversify Documents
- Created individualized “Diversify Documents” for the following congregations that completed the Racial Diversity Assessment: First Congregational in Norwich, Journey UCC, First Congregational in Poughkeepsie, Scarsdale Congregational Church, First Congregational Church in Walton, and First Congregational Church of Rockaway Beach.

Continuing Education
- Participated in year-long SC2ER (Sacred Conversations to End Racism) training with Rev. Dr. Velda Love through the national UCC office.

Other
- Participated in a racial justice workshop at General Synod 2019 and led a small group in collaboration with Rev. Dr. Velda Love. Approximately 20 people were in attendance.
- Participated in a one-evening courageous conversation with congregations in Ithaca, NY to discuss both the documentary *White Like Me* and the book *Woke Church*. This event was set up by a group of clergy in Ithaca with the invite to participate coming from clergy connections in Binghamton. Approximately 60 people were in attendance.
- Began a dialogue with the principal of Homer High School and the superintendent of the Homer Central School District to host New & Right Spirit: Let’s Talk Race for 11th and 12th graders beginning in the fall of 2020 so they are better prepared for the racial diversity of college. Cortland County is 95% white with marginal diversity. I will also seek to include the principal of Cortland High School and the superintendent of Cortland City Schools in this conversation.
- Began meeting with Rev. Eric Jackson, pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church in Syracuse, to begin partnering on racial justice work.

Submitted by:

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