FCCW-UCC Racial Justice Journey

_Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God_

Micah 6:8

Summer Book Discussions July and August 2020

- Toni Morrison’s _The Bluest Eye_ and
- Ta-Nehisi Coates’s _Between the World and Me_

**Phase I. LEARNERS (Past)** in a community of mutual accountability studying the historic and continuing impact of white privilege and slavery on racism (Sept. – Dec. 2020)

- Reading on White Privilege by Peggy McIntosh
- Racial Justice tab on church home site with ongoing plans posted: extensive bibliography provided, weekly newsletter column started
- Viewing and discussion of Dr. Henry L. Gates 6-part film series, *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*
- Presentation of *NH African American History* with Reverend Renee Rouse, invited our greater community to join us via ZOOM
- Synergy sought with our Sunday services, our ministry, our committees, our communication, and our Christian Education throughout 3 phases
  - Racial Justice Moments during Sunday Service by 5 RJSC members (through Jan.)
- Survey conducted to ascertain Phase II program priorities
- *Welcoming Diversity: An Inventory for Congregations* completed by RJSC and provided for new church committees in Phase II.

**Phase II. INTERRUPTERS (present) of the continued cycle of racism (Jan.- March 2021)**

**Criminal & Restorative Justice – January 2021**

- viewed 13th, a Netflix documentary (2016)
- read a New Yorker article *Ten Years After “The New Jim Crow”* -David Remnick interviews Michelle Alexander (January 17, 2020)
- Perspectives on Prison Ministry & the (In)Justices of our Systems of Incarceration
  - Presentation by Cheryl Dean, Chaplain of the New London Hospital and Alice Roberts, Chaplain of The New Hampshire State Prison for Women, Jan. 12
  - Presentation by Reverend Russ Gates, Chaplain at the maximum-security men's prison, State Correctional Institution Graterford/Phoenix in PA., and Termaine Joseph Hicks, recently found innocent of his accused crime and released from prison.

**Immigration: Public Policy to Local Advocacy - February**

- Presentation by Dr. Stephanie Diehlmann, Founder, The Well Health Center, Cactus, Tx
• Presentation by Eva Castillo, Director of New Hampshire Alliance of Immigrants and Refugees

Systemic Perspectives & Spotlight on Youth - March
• Student Stories and Perspectives on Racial Justice in Education: Alex Marquez and Rebecca Fletcher
• Education: Courageous Conversation with a Native Educator: John Around Him

Donations in honor of each speaker were made to relevant nonprofit organizations (see separate list)

The NHCUCC Racial Justice Mission Group sponsored a three-hour workshop on 2/20, White Nationalism, Contemporary Racism, and the Christian Church. Our members were encouraged to attend: Youtube

Phase III. Becoming ALLIES (future) with People of Color in challenging race-based injustice in the areas of criminal justice, environmental degradation, economic deprivation, and exclusion from full participation

Spring 2021 (April – August)
• Interactive Presentation & Discussion with Rev. Renee Rouse and Bonita Betters-Reed, “Becoming Allies: Shifting our Lens.”

• Collective viewing of Mark Charles presentation, ‘We the People’ - the three most misunderstood words in US history | Mark Charles | TEDxTysons - Bing video and small-group discussions.


• Workshop co-sponsored with the Wilmot Public Library, But I Don't Feel White

• Summer book discussion: His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis & the Power of Hope by J. Meacham
  o Sabbatical Minister attended RJSC meetings, book discussions and helped sustain church goals for RJ through services and coordination with Will

Fall/Winter 2021 (Sept-December) - see also CE calendar
• Second workshop with the Wilmot Public Library, based on the book, Let’s Talk Race, “Understanding Unconscious Bias.”
• Workshop after church Oct. 10 “Our Calling as a Church”
• Field Trip to Portsmouth for Black Heritage Trail Tour Oct. 17
• Workshop after church Nov. 7 “Toward Covenanting”
• Meeting with Parish Council to review draft covenant Nov. 16
• December 5 – Share covenant for Becoming a Racial Justice Church: Consensus “vote”