

Anti-Racism Covenant

Becoming an Anti-Racist, Multi-Racial/Multi-Cultural Church

Christ Congregational Church UCC holds a vision of becoming a multi-cultural, multi-racial, anti-racist congregation that more faithfully reflects the entire community of Silver Spring, Maryland.

We are a covenant faith community who believe that all people are made in God's image, reconciled by Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We believe it is our role to take an active stance in systematically dismantling racism. A part of an anti-racism stance is acknowledging a system of white privilege in the United States which tends to perpetuate societal stereotypes in all its citizens.

We believe that our commitment to anti-racism should be reflected in the life and culture of the congregation through our policies, programs and practices as we continue to learn about racism. We are committed to developing and working to implement strategies that dismantle racism through our adult and children's education, Sunday services, mission giving, purchases and business practices, and community outreach and action.

We believe we are all called to work against racism and work for a society in which the words of the Gospel are realized among us.

We acknowledge that CCC has a rich heritage of engagement in addressing racism in our society over the years, and we recognize that our anti-racism journey is a continuing one. Therefore, we claim the prophetic work and title "Becoming an Anti-racist Church".

Accepted and Affirmed by a Unanimous Vote of the congregation at the Annual Meeting held on 11 June 2006.

TOGETHER WE GROW: Becoming an Anti-Racist Church

JANUARY 2010 EVENTS -- OUR CCC ANTI-RACISM JOURNEY



Reaffirming Our Covenants

On the weekend of the Martin Luther King Holiday, CCC will be reaffirming our covenant: Becoming an Anti-Racist Church. This is a part of CCC's continuing Anti-Racism Journey. We adopted the Anti-Racism Covenant in June, 2006, after several years of learning and discernment. Now it is time to see where we are on this journey – both individually and as a community.

Workshop: Becoming an Anti-Racist Church
Saturday, 16 January 2010, 9:00-Noon, Meeting Room

Worship: Reaffirming Our CCC Anti-Racist Covenant
Sunday, 17 January 2010 Worship Services

Some Highlights of CCC Anti-Racism Journey

- Jan 2004: Executive Council endorsed the concept of an Anti-Racism Journey for CCC.
- May 2004: A 2-day Anti-Racism Workshop was held with twenty-five people present.
- Sep 2004: Initiated an Anti-Racism Audit of all phases of CCC's life and organization with six teams of members.
- Feb 2005: A 3-day in-depth diversity experience, Power Equity Group, was held with twenty-four people present.
- Dec 2006: A six week Study Circle addressing the effects of racism and ethnicity in Silver Spring was held with nineteen people participating.
- Jun 2006: The congregation at its annual meeting unanimously accepted and affirmed the CCC Covenant "Becoming an Anti-Racist Church."
- Feb – Mar 2008: Susan Henderson led a Sunday evening Lenten series on anti-racism using the film "Crash."
- Jun 2008: Gordon Forbes and Andy Holmes offered a sermon on "race" as a first step toward a longer-term UCC Sacred Conversation on Race.
- Nov 2008: A Sacred Conversation on Race was convened in response to a September racial incident at CCC.
- Jan 2009: Delilah Marrow, Jim Henkelman-Bahn and Susan Henderson presented a case study on CCC's Anti-Racism Journey at a UCC gathering in North Carolina that was engaged in developing UCC Anti-Racism Strategies.
- A number of worship services as well as several books used in adult education focused on aspects of our CCC Anti-Racism Journey over the years.
- An email group was created for people interested in following the CCC Anti-Racism Journey. Currently over 60 people are on the list. Please contact Jim Henkelman-Bahn hjames34@comcst.net to be added to the list.

Saturday, 16 January 2010, 9:00-Noon, Meeting Room

Workshop: Becoming an Anti-Racist Church

Where are we as individuals? As a church? Where do we want to be?

Plan to gather with other members of CCC to explore and share our personal and church journeys of race and culture. Our dialogue will help us develop some common language and understanding. We will then suggest some next steps on our CCC Anti-Racism Journey. Jim Henkelman-Bahn and another experienced Diversity/Inclusion/Social Justice trainer, Howard Jackson, will facilitate the process. We want friends and members of CCC who are new to this dialogue as well as those who have participated in the past to be present.

Sunday, 17 January 2010 Worship Services

Reaffirming our CCC Becoming an Anti-Racist Church Covenant
Hospitality on Our CCC Anti-Racism Journey

Members of the congregation are joining Susan Henderson in planning and participating in these worship services on Martin Luther King Weekend as we renew our commitment to the CCC Anti-Racism Journey. Be sure to be with us for one of the two services.

Sunday, 17 January 2010, 11:45 AM, Meeting Room

Continuing conversation after the church services;
sharing and processing thoughts, feelings and ideas