

CONFRONTING RACISM

The Social Justice Council recommends the congregation sponsor the “Confronting Racism” Project for the next year to engage the congregation to understand systemic racism and implicit bias. We plan to participate in dialog, workshops and community actions, working with CCISCO (Contra Costa Interfaith Community Organization), PICO (People Improving Communities Through Organizing), both of which are faith based organizations, and Black Lives Matter. We seek to understand how racism and white privilege work. We plan to hear and listen to others’ experience of racism. We will engage in actions to transform us and the communities with which we work.

We plan to start June 3rd with a “Confronting Racism Workshop” led by the Rev. Donnell Jones of CCISCO and New Directions Ministries in Richmond and the Rev. Ben McBride of PICO, who spent recent months organizing youth in Ferguson, MO. The workshop will be an interactive participation delving into whiteness and implicit racism. We hope to engage all aspects of our congregation, including worship, music, R.E. and family ministry.

We plan to form alliances and partnerships with other congregations and organizations doing anti-racism work in Contra Costa County. An example of such collaboration already in existence is the Friday Night CEASEFIRE Walks in Richmond, peace walks in the city’s most crime plagued neighborhoods, which have helped to reduce homicide rates. We hope these alliances will promote personal relationships and exchanges between UUCB and other congregations.

We request \$1200 for workshop leaders, speakers and materials.