

## Timeline of WBUUC Engagement in Anti-Racist Work

*Note: Listings using black print refer to events/programs/direct involvement of WBUUC staff, members and friends. Listings using red print refer to events in the community, at the local, state or national level.*

**Note: The Facing Race Stirring Committee (FRSC) continues to serve as a resource to the WBUUC congregation and leadership as our church collectively works to understand and dismantle white supremacy.**

**2023** The Social Action Committee votes in favor of adopting the 8th Principle and the Coming of Age class creates materials to help promote its adoption.

The WBUUC Board votes unanimously to add to the June 2023 annual meeting agenda a vote to adopt the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle. The Board is recommending that the congregation vote in favor of adoption.

FRSC hosts information tables and holds listening sessions on the proposed 8<sup>th</sup> Principle, which will obligate UUs to work to dismantle racism in ourselves and our communities.

WBUUC co-hosts the MLK breakfast at Parkview United Church of Christ in White Bear Lake.

**2023** Five Memphis Police officers severely beat 29-year-old Tyre Nichols during a traffic stop in Memphis, Tennessee, leading to his death three days later.

**2022** A mass shooter at a grocery store in Buffalo, New York kills 10 people and injures three others, the majority of whom were Black. The shooter admits to having white supremacist motivations in targeting a primarily Black community.

**2022** FRSC works to develop a comprehensive Land Acknowledgement Statement and to create relationship with a Native organization in Twin Cities. The Committee makes plans to educate the congregation on the proposed 8<sup>th</sup> Principle and promote its adoption at the WBUUC 2023 Annual Meeting.

The WBUUC Board adopts the policy of donating funds, as a form of reparations, to the Walker West Music Academy when we play gospel music (Negro spirituals) at our services.

WBUUC joins Many Faces of the White Bear Lake Area, an organization that offers programs on equity, diversity and inclusion.

Rev. Roger Bertschausen and the FRSC sponsor a class on *Widening the Circle of Concerns*, part of the UUA's report anticipating adoption of the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle.

FRSC members participate in a workshop series sponsored by Interfaith Action's Sacred Solidarity Network about congregational practices for making reparations to Indigenous and Black communities.

**2021** Eight Asian American women are killed in a racially motivated shooting spree in Atlanta.

**2021** Staff member Nico Van Ostrand leads a state-wide workshop, *Reflection & Readiness: Minnesota Unitarian Universalists Social Justice Action's Racial Justice Summit*.

FRSC promotes Treaty People Gathering, opposing Line 3.

WBUUC Board votes unanimously to commit \$25,000 to the Northside Housing Initiative, a project of Black Lives of UU, to be raised through a special collection. At the same time, Rev. Victoria Safford, who had announced that she was leaving, chooses this same project as a way that people can celebrate and honor her service. The congregation subsequently donates \$65,000 to BLUU's housing initiative.

Rev. Jack Gaede leads an on-line class on the Black Film Canon 102.

**2020-2021** WBUUC volunteers help out at the George Floyd Memorial site and participate in Black Lives Matter protests and marches.

**2020** The suffocation killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers is filmed by a witness, leading to murder convictions for the officers involved.

Ahmaud Arbery, a young black man, is chased, shot and killed in Brunswick, Ga. by three white men who see Arbery jogging in their neighborhood.

**2019-20** The Facing Race Stirring Committee (FRSC) continues reflection-discussion groups and offers two opportunities, based on *My*

- Grandmother's Hands and Witnessing Whiteness*, to learn about talking about race and the effects of racism on all of us. Forty members and friends of WBUUC take part in these multi-week classes.**
- Rev. Jack Gaede leads an on-line class on the Black Film Canon 101.**
- 2019 White supremacist murders 22 people at a Walmart in El Paso, TX on August 3rd. He admits he targeted Mexicans.
- White supremacist murders 51 people on March 15 at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.
- 2019 Discussion classes are offered based on Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Talents* and *Parable of the Sower*.
- WBUUC's 10<sup>th</sup> year as the northeast metro suburban site for the annual Twin Cities MLK Jr. Holiday Breakfast.
- 2018-19 WBUUC Board of Directors selects *White Fragility* as their Common Read.
- 2018 White nationalist and anti-Semite murders 11 people at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2018 Rev. Victoria Safford and six WBUUC members attend the *Undoing Racism* workshop presented by ASDIC Metamorphosis; the Facing Race Stirring Committee is formed as an outgrowth.
- DiAngelo returns in June for another workshop based on her newest book, *White Fragility: Why it's so Hard for White People to Talk about Racism*.
- Rev. Victoria Safford leads three evening sessions on DiAngelo's work.
- 2017-18 Twelve WBUUC members join a team from First Unitarian Society to take part in the 10-session UUA program, "Beloved Conversations."
- 2017 WBUUC members and friends attend an afternoon workshop at Unity Church-Unitarian in St. Paul in November led by Robin DiAngelo on her book *What does it Mean to be White?*
- 2017 At the Unite the Right neo-Nazi rally in Charlottesville, VA, August 11-12, a white supremacist kills Heather Heyer by ramming his car into the crowd of counter-protestors.
- WBUUC joins the UUA in holding two "White Supremacy Teach-ins".
- Led by children, youth, RE teachers and staff, members of the congregation expressed support for studying and promoting the proposed 8th Principle, which calls on UUs to dismantle racism and other oppressions.
- Religious Education (RE) dedicates the Little Free Library to racial justice books.

**Year-long Congregational Conversations on the books, “A Good Time for the Truth” and “The Fire This Time.”**

- 2016** WBUUC answers the UUA’s call to fund Black Lives UU for 3 years through special Sunday collections.
- 2016 Philando Castile is shot and killed by an officer as he sits in his car in Falcon Heights.
- 2016 Alton Sterling is killed by a police officer.
- 2015** WBUUC members and friends travel to Selma, Alabama for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery protest marches demonstrating for African American voter rights. More than a dozen small group meetings involving 80+ members prepare the congregation to send the delegation and welcome them home.  
  
A 12-member “Soulwork for Racial Justice” team began meeting to deepen and broaden WBUUC’s anti-racism work.
- 2015 White supremacist Dylann Roof kills nine African Americans in their church, Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, e.g. Mother Emanuel, in Charleston, SC.  
  
Walter Scott, Sandra Bland and Freddie Gray are killed by police or die in police custody.
- 2014 Eric Garner, Michael Brown Jr. and Tamir Rice are killed by police.
- 2013 Jamar Clark is killed by Minneapolis police officers in November.
- 2013** WBUUC members join a 10-week UUA program, “Beloved Conversations,” held at Unity Church Unitarian in St. Paul.
- 2013** Several WBUUC members, along with some ministers and members from other metro UU churches attend a Racial Justice Summit meeting at First Universalist Church in Minneapolis.
- 2013-18** Over 200 BLACK LIVES MATTER buttons are distributed at WBUUC.
- 2013** WBUUC members and friends become active in #BlackLivesMatter.
- 2013** #BlackLivesMatter is founded.
- 2013 George Zimmerman is acquitted of murdering Trayvon Martin.
- 2012 Trayvon Martin is killed by George Zimmerman in Florida.  
  
White supremacist Wade Page kills six people at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin.
- 2012** WBUUC hosts Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed for a workshop/seminar on the history of black Unitarians and Universalists.



- 2009** WBUUC's first year as the northeast metro suburban site for the annual Twin Cities MLK Jr. Holiday Breakfast.
- 2002-08** WBUUC hosts guest teachers on the history related to race for study groups over extended weekends.
- 2001** WBUUC engages in a congregational read of *Soul Work: Anti-racist Theologies in Dialogue* (Papers and discussion transcripts from the UUA Consultation on Theology and Racism held in Boston in January 2001).