

Timeline of WBUUC Engagement in Anti-Racist Work

2025 FRSC supports a series of six congregational workshops on Raising Racial Consciousness led by Rev. Anthony Galloway of the Dendros Group.

FRSC works to create an e-mail list serve to notify congregants of important cultural and political events in a timely manner.

2024 FRSC researches and drafts a congregational Land Acknowledgement Statement ([link](#)) and action plan ([link](#)) and secures their adoption by the WBUUC Board in October 2024. As part of our action plan, we work to identify Indigenous organizations and promote and support their work.

2023 The WBUUC congregation votes overwhelmingly to adopt the 8th Principle.

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 a vote to adopt the 8th Principle to the June 2023 annual meeting agenda and recommends that the congregation vote in favor of adoption.

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

FRSC recruits volunteers to help for one day at Dream of Wild Health, an organization which operates an indigenous peoples' farm in Hugo.

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

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 8th 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 8th 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 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.

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 Rev. Victoria Safford offers discussion classes based on Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Talents* and *Parable of the Sower*.

WBUUC's 10th year as the northeast metro suburban site for the annual Twin Cities MLK Jr. Holiday Breakfast.

Over 200 BLACK LIVES MATTER buttons are distributed at WBUUC.

2018-19 WBUUC Board of Directors selects *White Fragility* as their Common Read.

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?*

.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.

2015 WBUUC members and friends travel to Selma, Alabama for the 50th 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.

2013 WBUUC members join a 10-week UUA program, “Beloved Conversations,” held at Unity Church Unitarian in St. Paul.

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.

WBUUC members and friends become active in #BlackLivesMatter.

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).