

#### Remember

Beloved community,

Hold this time of sacred covenant union in your thoughts and prayers. Remember the friendships, remember the pain and agony of carrying this burden, remember the joy and the peace that surpasseth all understanding in being in relationship with your siblings who are struggling and growing with you, remember that we are not perfect and mistakes are just part of our DNA, and most importantly, remember that the Spirit will journey with us during every mountain and valley that we face.

Again, we say, remember, and also rejoice!



# ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE of the Northern Illinois Conference

Welcome to the

Becoming the Beloved

Community

Workshop (Pilot)

Saturday, September 11, 2021

Friendship United Methodist Church

305 E. Boughton Road Bolingbrook, IL

#### WELCOME!

- <sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.
- 19 I am about to do a new thing;
   now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
   I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:18-19 NRSV

Hello beloved,

It is with great excitement that our team Welcomes you to this time of re-visioning, re-learning, and re-acting to what it means Be a part of the Beloved Community.

During the next 4 hours, we ask that you Open your mind, heart and soul to the Transformative power of the Holy Spirit In awakening us to being anti-racist, not Only in words but in our deeds, and quite Possibly most importantly, in our way of Thinking and loving all our neighbors.

Let the Holy Spirit lead us in doing this work.

Richard

## Notes Page Overall Workshop Reflections

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## Notes Page The Story of "Now"

List notable Bible verses, quotes, memorable phrases below that you'd like to remember.							

## Sat., Sept. 11, 2021

Please join us for breakfast
Prior to the beginning of the workshop
In the Friendship Center

Workshop Agenda

Welcome

Story of "Self"

Story of "Us"

Story of "Now"

Please don't forget your box lunch. You are welcome to take it with you or join us in the Friendship Center.

### **Becoming the Beloved Community**

#### History

#### **Anti-racism Task Force**

The Northern Illinois Conference Annual Conference Shepherding Team announced the establishment of the Anti-racism Task Force in June 2019 to create a strategy for the conference to work against racism. The Anti-racism Task Force established 3 sub-goals working with youth, adults, and clergy separately and collectively to provide anti-racism awareness, understanding, and learning opportunities to be a prophetic voice to lead by example within our personal lives, our church, and society.

### What is Becoming the Beloved Community workshop?

During the beginning of 2020, the Anti-racism Task Force invited Northern Illinois Conference lay and clergy to enroll in Introduction to Systemic Racism courses with Chicago Regional Organizing for Antiracism (CROAR). To encourage as many as possible to take this course, the conference subsidized the cost. When Covid hit, these classes became online via Zoom.

By the end of 2020, almost 100 NIC lay and clergy had gone through one of the courses. We received extremely positive feedback; however, we wanted to go deeper in this work by reflecting on our denomination, our conference, and how we could have a deeper impact on becoming antiracist.

By early January 2021, a group of volunteers from the Anti-racism Task Champion Team formed a team to tackle the work of creating a course specifically created for United Methodists (lay and clergy) of the Northern Illinois Conference. The Planning Team members are Dr. Richard Guzman (chair), Tom Butler, Rev. Matthew Krings, Donna Sagami, Lennox Iton, and Peyton "Buzz" Wheeler III. Amania Drane, NIC Annual Conference Shepherding Team Project Manager, also joined the team.

This workshop is the fruit of their labor. It was a time spent in prayer, relationship-building, reading, studying, challenging one another, and heartwrenching work. Isabel Wilkerson's book, **Caste: the Origins of our Discontents**, was an important part of the learning. The team also used Dr. Marshall Ganz' work on storytelling to provide a framework for learning and understanding.

Our vision is for this workshop to provide learning and understanding about racism and what individuals, churches, and the communities where we live and go to church can become anti-racist.

### Notes Page The Story of "Us"

List notable Bible verses, quotes, memorable phrases below that						
you'd like to remember.						

### Notes Page The Story of "Self"

List notable Bible verses, quotes, memorable phrases below that you'd like to remember.						

### Prayers for the Twentieth Anniversary of 9/11

By Derek Weber United Methodist Discipleship Ministries

We remember, God of history and remembrance, we remember. We remember when the towers fell and the lives were lost; we remember the dust and the smoke, the despair, and the grief. We remember that sense of vulnerability and shock. We remember the numbness that overwhelmed us as we watched our screens for hours and hours, waiting for an explanation and understanding that never came. We remember.

We remember, God of hope and presence, we remember. We remember the heroes, those who rushed to help, who guided the wounded down innumerable flights of stairs, who rose to overwhelm those who held death in their hands. We remember the hours and the days of binding wounds and healing hurts, giving comfort, drying tears. We remember words of support and compassion from nations far and wide. We remember.

We remember in part because we see the ripples of that tragic day continue to impact our world twenty years later. We grieve with allies today as our allies grieved with us twenty years ago. And together we wonder if there will ever be an end . . . to violence, to war, to hatred, to death. We remember and we grieve our world's inability to learn the things that lead to peace.

We call to you now in our remembrance, God of justice and of peace. Give us a will to truly pray that your kin-dom may come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen and Amen.

On this day of solemn remembrance:

May we honor the lives that were lost in this tragic act.

May we give thanks for those who served and saved, rendered aid and assistance.

May we give comfort to those who live with loss.

May we seek justice and peace where it is within our ability, and rely on you when the ability escapes us.

On this day of solemn remembrance:

May we build what has been torn down.

May we mend what has been broken.

May live your love when hate seems to reign.

May we bear witness to the cause of peace.

Amen.

# Becoming the Beloved Community Planning Team



**Dr. Richard R. Guzman** is a member of Friendship UMC (Bolingbrook) where he has been Chair of Church Council and is Coordinator of its homeless shelter program at Daybreak in Joliet. He has been involved in issues of race, ethnicity, and diversity for decades, beginning with helping to start the first Ethnic Studies College in America as an undergraduate at U.C. Berkeley in the late 1960's. However, only in the last 3 or 4 years have many Americans seemingly begun to talk about race with the depth and focus they need to, making this the most exciting time ever to be working together on truly becoming a Beloved Community. Richard chairs the Becoming the Beloved Community Planning Team. His favorite dessert is 85% dark chocolate from either Aldi or Trader Joe's.



Tom Butler is a member of First United Methodist Church of Evanston. He is a Lay Member to the Annual Conference and Chairperson of the Social Justice Committee. He is passionate about meeting and working with committed and interesting people who want to see change happen. Unfortunately, due to other commitments, he is not available to join us for today's workshop. It's hard to name a favorite dessert but he loves most flavors of Gelato.

### **Respectful Conversations**

- **R** take RESPONSIBILITY for what you say and feel without blaming others.
- **E** use EMPATHIC listening.
- **S** be SENSITIVE to differences.
- **P** PONDER what you hear and feel before you speak.
- **E** EXAMINE your own assumptions and perceptions.
- **C** keep CONFIDENTIALITY.
- **T** TRUST ambiguity because we are not here to debate who is right or wrong.

#### **Mutual Invitation**

In order to ensure that everyone who wants to share has the opportunity to speak, we will proceed in the following way during Small Group Discussions:

- The leader of the small group shares first. Afterward sharing, this person then invites another person to share. Who you invite does not need to be the person next to you.
- After the next person has spoken, that person is given the privilege to invite another to share.
- If you are not ready to share, say "I pass for now" and proceed to invite another to share. We will invite you to share later on.
- If you don't' want to say anything at all, simply say "pass" and proceed to invite another to share.

We will do this until everyone has been invited.

We invite you to listen and not to respond to someone's sharing immediately. There will be time to respond and to ask clarifying questions after everyone has had an opportunity to share.

(from The Wolf Shall Dwell With the Lamb by Eric H. F. Law)

## Other Work of the Anti-racism Task Force

Stay informed about the other work of the Anti-racism Task Force which includes:

- Anti-racism Learning Path found on our website
- **Becoming the Beloved Community** workshops on learning about becoming an anti-racist.
- Conference-wide Day of Prayer & Fasting (Fri., 10/1)
- Justice Generation and Justice Camp—youth engagement
- Conference-wide Rally Against Racism (summer 2021). Be sure that your church participates in 2022.
- The Champion Team—an engaged group of NIC clergy and lay who support the Task Force
- The Ephesus Project—a church/pulpit exchange
- Speaker Series

Go to umcnic.org/antiracism to learn more

# Becoming the Beloved Community Planning Team



Amania Drane is a lay member at Friendship United Methodist Church (Bolingbrook). She leads the Prayer Chain Ministry and the Faith Formation Ministry. She is passionate about learning and working with others on understanding and dismantling systemic racism and the harm it has had on communities of color. Her favorite dessert is just about anything that has flour, sugar, butter, and chocolate and is baked in the oven, and topped with vanilla ice cream.



**Lennox Iton** is a member of Hinsdale UMC. He is a Lay Member to the Annual Conference and a member of Staff Parish Relations Committee and the Missions Committee. He is passionate about anti-racism work because he recognizes the corrosive effect that systemic racism exerts on the contentment of people of color in the society, and the interpersonal friction that arises from the lack of awareness on the part of persons in the dominant strata. <u>His favorite dessert</u> is Floating Island (nostalgic choice).

# Becoming the Beloved Community Planning Team

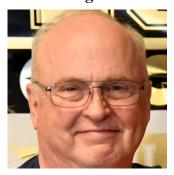


**Rev. Matthew Krings** is the lead pastor at Berry Church in Chicago. He rejoices in his work as pastor, preacher, and teacher. He was raised going to integrated schools, and it was only when he got to college that he realized how segregated our society truly is. He recognizes that race and racism are at the core of so many of our society's problems and feels called to be in action around our future together. His favorite dessert is cheesecake.



**Donna Sagami** is a member of Ravenswood Fellowship UMC (Chicago). She is the Lay Leader to the Annual Conference and the Walking Group Leader (Wellness ministry). She has been an active member of the Anti-racism Champion Team since it started in 2020. Donna wants to learn as well as share her experiences as a Japanese American. Her favorite dessert is Italian ice.

# Becoming the Beloved Community Planning Team



**Peyton "Buzz" Wheeler, III** is a lay member at Sugar Grove UMC. He serves as Lay Member to the Annual Conference and is a member of the church's Governing Board. Buzz believes in social justice. Only as a group as large as the UMC can we fight systematic racism. Step one is educating ourselves. His favorite dessert is pecan pie warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

**Thank you** to the leadership of the Anti-Racism Task Force, the Northern Illinois Annual Conference, and the NIC Annual Conference Shepherding Team. The work and support provided by all gives us great hope.