



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

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. His favorite dessert 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.