

Becoming The Beloved Community: Talking About Race in America

Saturday, March 26, 2022 ■ 9 AM – 1 PM
North Shore United Methodist Church, Glencoe, IL



Sponsored by the NSUMC Racial Justice Team

WORKSHOP OUTLINE:

- Opening Prayer, Introductions, Labor and Land Acknowledgments*
- Workshop Intro: What's wrong with our national conversation on race?*
- PART 1:*
 - Privilege: The “Knapsack” Whites Carry / Justice or Social Issue: Media Bias
 - Sharing our Stories: The Story of Self
- PART 2:*
 - Privilege: The Nature of “Caste” / Justice or Social Issue: Equity in Housing and Home Ownership / Sharing Our Stories: The Story of Us
- PART 3:*
 - Privilege: Who Writes History? / Justice or Social Issue: Reparations
 - Sharing Our Stories: The Story of Now
- “CONCLUSION” and CONCLUDING RITUAL*

RESPECTFUL CONVERSATIONS:

We seek to carry out this workshop in a Safe Environment. Here we'll tackle tough issues, but no one will be allowed to call another person a racist, for reasons we will address in the Workshop Intro. We will also try to carry on respectful conversations, often defined by the acronym RESPECT. **R**—take *responsibility* for what you say and feel without blaming others. **E**—use *empathetic* 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 primarily to debate who is right or wrong.

ABOUT THE BECOMING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY WORKSHOP:



This workshop was developed by the Training and Curriculum Committee of the Northern Illinois Conference's Anti-Racism Task Force. Its goal was to create a workshop more compact and affordable than other workshops currently available to the conference, and thus

engage more churches, clergy, church members, and others in the journey towards racial justice and equity. The workshop seeks to share, refresh, and remind people of essential facts and concepts pertaining to racism and the fight against racism, suggest ways to keep talking and acting to dismantle racism, and to help the formation of friendships and alliances that will help in this struggle. The road towards racial justice and equity is very long and difficult, and no one can travel on it by themselves.

The committee developing this workshop consists of Richard Guzman (chair, member of Friendship UMC), Amania Drane (Friendship UMC), Tom Butler (First UMC, Evanston), Lennox Iton (Hinsdale UMC), Matthew Krings (lead pastor, Berry Church, Chicago), Donna Sagami (Ravenswood Fellowship UMC), and Peyton “Buzz” Wheeler III (Sugar Grove UMC).*

* For those interested, short bios (with pictures), plus much more material concerning the workshop and the *many* initiatives of the Anti-Racism Task Force can be found in the booklet prepared for the pilot presentation of *Becoming the Beloved Community*. A new online booklet based on this one is being prepared. For now, until the new booklet **and** the new anti-racism section of the conference website is ready, the pilot booklet is being housed temporarily on Dr. Guzman’s website. Because this was a folded booklet, though, the pages won’t appear in normal order. Go to <https://richardguzman.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/BBC-2021PilotBooklet.pdf>

A few UPCOMING EVENTS:

- The BECOMING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY workshop is being held another five times this year. If you know anyone in the area of the following churches, please let them know.
April 30, 2022 – Elmhurst First UMC (contact Lisa Rodgers, jlrogers204@comcast.net)
May 14, 2022 – Elgin First UMC (Sue Broxham, psbroxham@gmail.com)
Specific dates and contacts yet TBD. September (still TBD). October at Friendship UMC. November at Hinsdale UMC.
- SPEAKERS SERIES: Race, America, and the Church
For more information go to <https://www.umcnic.org/2022SpeakerSeries>
Four events, one a quarter. The first happened on March 24, 2022. The other three:
June 23—Unafraid: Stand Up for Social Justice
September 22—Undenied: No Longer Willing To Be Unheard
December 1—Called: Doing God’s Work for the Beloved Community
- ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH Celebration, May 22, 2022, 4:00 p.m. at First Korean UMC, 655 E. Hintz Rd., Wheeling, IL. Contact Rev. J. Martin Lee (mlee@umcnic.org) for more information.
- SOUTHSIDE CULTURAL TOUR – A two-day excursion to important racial justice sites. Slated for October 2022. More information forthcoming.

Remember, Beloved Community—

Hold this time of sacred covenant union in your thoughts and prayers. Remember friendships, remember the pain of carrying this burden, remember the joy and peace surpassing all understanding of being in relationship with your siblings struggling and growing with you. Remember that we are not perfect. Mistakes are just part of our DNA. Most important, remember that the Spirit journeys with us.