

2018–19 Annual Report, Anti-Racism Sunday Group

The Anti-Racism Group has continued to share articles, videos and podcasts suggested by assorted members of the group, and to meet on the second and fourth Sundays at 8:30 in the library for respectful and deep conversations about those materials and our experiences. Ordinarily at least six people participate on a regular basis, with several others who drop in occasionally. Lisa Evanylo updates on the UUC website, under the Justice tab & Anti-racism submenu, a list of what we've discussed.

This year we began using the White Ally Toolkit, which we learned was being used by a class or group at First UU in Richmond. The central aim of the Toolkit is to learn how to have effective conversations with people who may be unaware of or have different understandings of institutional racism.

After receiving an invitation from the Lifelong Learning Institute at VT, three of us prepared and taught a 3-session class, along with Debbie Travis, current head of the local chapter of the NAACP, whom we invited to join us. Nine people signed up for the class, which was entitled "Learning to Challenge Racism from Within and Without". The presenters all found it very rewarding in that the "students" participated meaningfully and were willing to share their experiences. Evaluations also showed that those who took the class very much appreciated it.

Four members of the Roanoke UU congregation came to UUC to quiz three of the members of our group on how we got started and how we operate. Their focus at that time was on presenting a service to their congregation in concert with the denomination-wide White Supremacy Teach-In.

In addition to these group efforts, members of the Group individually participate in anti-racism efforts elsewhere in the community: for example, two members participate in a community bookgroup currently discussing the book *White Fragility*, several are NAACP members, some participate in Virginia Organizing, and several are involved with various committees of the Dialogue on Race. In part thru these efforts, the UUC is becoming known as working for anti-racism.

This year the Wednesday Anti-Racism Group decided to discontinue meeting, so this report includes only the Sunday Group.