

Annual Report of the Racial Justice Committee June, 2018

The Racial Justice Committee is a subgroup of the Social Justice Committee. Our co-chairs are Carolyn Hurdis and Penny Hall. We meet monthly to share information and ideas as we explore the realities, causes, and effects of racism and plan ways to share our learning and promote change.

In September we all participated in the March for Racial Justice at India Point Park in Providence to meet people and hear some powerful speeches by people of color who are legislators or leaders of groups working for protection of immigrants, affordable housing and equity in education.

We decided to focus our work as a committee on three areas:
Education, legislation, and local outreach.

Education:

Reading, sharing with each other at meetings and on line.

As a congregational event, we showed the film I Am Not Your Negro, had discussion and pizza.

Attended live streaming (at library) of Angie Thomas' talk at RIC about the Read Across RI book selection, The Hate you Give.

We are planning a potluck and discussion of The Hate you Give to be held in June or early next year.

Participated in the UUA Richness and Challenge webinar on how other congregations work against racism.

Legislation:

In March we attended the annual meeting of the UU Legislative Ministry of RI at Westminster Church and heard presentations about bills dealing with various social justice issues.

Our committee decided to work on helping to get the bills for raising the minimum wage to pass. We will speak with the sponsors of the bills and ask members of UUCSC to lobby with their legislators as we did last year with the Justice Reinvestment package, which passed.

Local outreach:

We visited with the director and the outreach person at the Johnny Cake Center, who urged us to attend the board meetings of the SK Housing Authority to learn about the needs of the residents of Champaign Heights and be a supportive presence. Every month some members of our committee attend.