



Committing to Dismantle Racism



Uprooting racism begins with examining our own beliefs and biases to dismantle the systems of oppression in our society. Anti-racism work embodies the principles of our UU faith, as well as our promise to LEARN, CONNECT, SHOW UP, GIVE, and DO. **The Social Justice Ministry** began an intensive learning program in 2016-17 that led to a vote of the congregation to display a Black Lives Matter banner on the front of the church.

We continue to provide opportunities for the congregation at-large to come along with us on this journey through book discussions, movies, and speakers. Examining institutional racism and our own attitudes and behaviors is a life-long journey and we are committed to making it possible for new and veteran members to have similar experiences. We understand terms like “driving while Black,” “white supremacy,” “privilege,” “white fragility”, “implicit bias” and others, but there is continually new research and analyses by the thinkers of our time that help us understand and discern how to act on our knowledge.



The issues and expressions of racism evolve, challenging us to look anew at the disparate treatment of BIPOC individuals in the criminal justice, health care, housing, and educational systems. We are particularly concerned with the political backlash to our country’s progress in the form of book-banning and laws that challenge school curricula. We have focused our voting rights work on supporting these marginalized communities. We see environmental justice issues that stem from racism.

Our partnership with the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (<https://cljct.org/>) allows us to work with other congregations of different faiths and with largely Black and Brown memberships on legislation and social actions that combat racial discrimination. GHIAA’s anti-racism training program opens doors for us into understanding and working with these communities as well.