

Engaging Racial Justice

A PLEDGE for People of Northfield, MN

Purpose: To encourage faith communities and others within Northfield, MN and beyond to unmask, dismantle and eradicate racism.

Background:

Communities across the United States are steeped in racist practices and systems that have done undue harm to indigenous populations and people of color for over 400 years. This is not new information. However, Northfield, with its proximity to the Twin Cities and the killing of George Perry Floyd on its streets, has a renewed opportunity to engage racial justice in a time of outrage, awareness and growing calls for action.

A group of concerned Northfield leaders in faith communities with a vision for the world God imagines where all people are treated with equality and dignity are inviting cooperation and collaboration through a PLEDGE to engage racial justice in concerted and sustained ways. Efforts by many are already underway and there is momentum to build upon. The PLEDGE is meant to encourage sustained and ever-deepening engagement until the day racism is unmasked, dismantled and eradicated from our society.

Resources:

Many faith communities, social justice agencies, schools and non-profits have created racial justice, anti-racist and/or white privilege curriculums. We also have financial resources to leverage. Some of our communities already connect to the efforts of ISAIAH and other communities fighting racism. The PLEDGE assumes that signers will do research beyond and within their spheres of influence to identify what fits and challenges their community best.

For those who wish to do further research and activities in your organization, here are some places to start:

- [Black Lives Matter Toolkits](#)
- [Adult List from the Ministry Lab](#)
- [Teen Youth Children List from the Ministry Lab](#)
- [On Being Race Healing Library](#)
- [ISAIAH/Faith in Minnesota Race-Class Narrative Trainings](#)

The PLEDGE

We the Governing Body of First UCC do pledge this day September 15, 2020, to engage in the work of racial justice so that racism is unmasked, dismantled and eradicated from our society. We promise to take the *next* step of:

Unmasking our own racist history.

Build upon existing relationships to bridge racial inequity.

Address systemic racism by focusing on re-enfranchising.

Furthermore, we pledge to encourage other communities with which we partner or are affiliated to join us in this endeavor. We promise to contact the following about their openness to engage this work with us:

TORCH

HCI

ISAIAH

Finally, we PLEDGE to dedicate resources to the cause of racial justice and in so doing center the voices of those most impacted by racism as well as invest in a vision of the world God imagines where all people are treated with equality and dignity. Therefore, we promise to include a line item in our budget each year. In the current year, we pledge \$3000. Some suggested organizations:

- Indigenous or People of Color led organizations investment opportunities: [Black Visions MN](#), [Reclaim the Block](#), [Uprising MN](#), Immigrant Law Center of MN, [Black Lives Matter](#), [Equal Justice Initiative](#)
- Become part of the ISAIAH pledged Community (levels of membership are available)
- Rice County organizations which are focused on people of color: [CAC Northfield](#), [Supporting Neighbors Fund](#), [HealthFinders](#), [Neighbors United of Northfield](#), [Growing Up Healthy](#), [TORCH](#), [Community Without Borders MN](#)

A recommended range that is sacrificial to the pledging community: \$200-10,000 or at least 1% percent of the budget.

We make this pledge, trusting that any steps we take will be good for the whole of Northfield and the society we are called to co-create. May it be so.

Signature of representative: *Janet Lewis Muth*

Title: Moderator

Faith Community: First United Church of Christ

Date: September 15, 2020