

Beloved Conversations: Meditations on Race and Ethnicity

March 16, 2016

Dear Congregants and Friends of the Congregation,

I'm pleased to share a new opportunity to take part in a racial justice program here at UUCP. We are pleased to offer an opportunity to participate in *Beloved Conversations: Meditations on Race and Ethnicity*, a program developed by Dr. Mark Hicks to explore the spiritual and intellectual dimensions of racism in our lives and what we can do to interrupt this dynamic.

The *Beloved Conversations* kick off retreat will be held on Friday evening and Saturday, April 29-30 and is then followed by eight small group sessions over a 3 to 4 month period. These group sessions consist of guided dialogue and experiential exercises led by UUCP facilitators. This will be deeply personal and challenging work, and all participants must be prepared to make the significant commitment to the process -- beginning with the retreat and continuing with an intention to participate in the group's eight small group sessions.



Would you like to be part of this challenging but transformational experience?

I am encouraging all who are interested to sign up. We are looking to congregational leaders (i.e., Board, Program Council, COM, and Nominating/Leadership) to fill some of the spots, but the program is open to all. Based on feedback and interest, we also have the option to run additional sessions in the future.

What is Beloved Conversations? What will I learn?

The Fahs Collaborative website describes it like this: *"Beloved Conversations is an experiential curriculum that provides a space to re-form/fuse the brokenness of racism into new patterns of thought and behavior ushering in social and spiritual healing. The curriculum differs from many approaches to anti-racism/multicultural work in that it frames the discussion not only in terms of demographic urgency or cultural critiques, but how developing skills and the habits of an anti-racist mind helps everyone - those in dominant groups as well as those who are targets of oppression - heal from the wounds of racism."*

How is the program structured?

We will hold a 1.5 day retreat to kick off the program on Friday evening and Saturday, April 29-30th. Following this retreat, there will be 8 sessions over a 3 to 4 month period, consisting of guided dialogue and experiential exercises led by UUCP facilitators. To ensure a robust experience, participation is limited by design to no more than 30 people split into three small groups.

How do I sign up or get more information?

Ted Fetter, Susan MacDonnell and Denise Weber have been working with the Fahs Collaborative to set up the program for us. If you have an interest in participating or have questions about the program, please email **Susan MacDonnell** at susmacdonn@gmail.com.

Along with the other members of the Board of Trustees, I look forward to seeing how Beloved Conversations helps us to grow as individuals and as a community.

Chris Sturm
Board President
UU Princeton