



## 2022 Year End Report

Throughout 2022, the Racial Justice Committee of FPCW has continued, with God's help and the support of our congregation, to be inspired by the very first words of Scripture which teach us that we are all created in the image of God, of every race and people, to live as one community (Genesis 1:26-27). We aim to follow the ministry of Jesus, in word and deed, to embody the ways of love, break down the dividing walls of hostility between people, and let the kingdom of God emerge in the most unlikely places.

We meet every three weeks to share ideas about how we can educate ourselves as a committee, share ideas and resources with our congregation, and act to be a part of nationwide efforts to dismantle racism.

- Over the summer, we partnered with the pastors and the Mission Committee in planning a pulpit exchange and member visits with our sister congregation New Life Baptist Church located on Chicago's south side.
- In the late summer, as a committee we participated in a four-part workshop which accompanies the book *Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation* by Latasha Morrison. The Whiteness 101 workshop gave us a chance to increase our awareness of the many ways in which we as white people have benefitted from the racial inequities that exist and provided ways in which we can work to bring about change.
- This fall we have shared resources with the congregation which explore issues that our brothers and sisters of color experience daily and which we as white people may unconsciously perpetuate: "Equity, Equality, and Justice: What's the Difference,"

"Every Voice Heard: The Issue of Voting Rights," "Microaggressions," and "Hidden Bias."

Looking forward to 2023:

- For our third annual Black History Month project, we will display Shorefront Legacy Center's traveling exhibit in the Chapel during February. It offers an overview of Black history on Chicago's North Shore. The exhibit will open to the FPCW congregation on Sunday, January 29. Center Director Dino Robinson will speak during the worship service that morning. The exhibit will be open to church members and members of the community throughout the month of February in celebration of Black History Month.
- We are planning a three-night racial justice pilgrimage to Birmingham, Selma, and Montgomery, Alabama in November. We are fortunate that Kenilworth Union Church sponsored a similar pilgrimage just last month and is graciously providing tips and resources.

We are grateful for your support, and we ask for your prayers as we strive to learn, advocate, and actively do God's work of dismantling structural racism.

Pastor Jeff Lehn, Bill Bishop, Bob Bobesink, Carolyn Holtermann, Pete Holtermann, Jacqui Koch, Laura Lyman, Mary Watt, and Bob Neuhaus (on hiatus)