

The Report of the Anti-Racism and Equity Committee
Presbytery of Southern New England
September 15, 2021

For Presbytery Information:

The Anti-Racism and Equity Committee has continued meeting monthly with Jessica Vasquez-Torres, the National Program Director of Crossroads Antiracism Organizing & Training since June of 2020.

Our mandate as a committee is:

To work towards the creation of an inclusive, equitable, antiracist culture within the PSNE that will be attractional to all people in particular those who have been systematically excluded from full participation in the presbytery, as we seek to be co-creators with Christ of a just, peaceful and healed world/creation.

We had a wonderful summer, hosting two book groups within the Presbytery. It was great to gather virtually with elders, church members, and clergy to discuss the books *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving and *White Awake: An Honest Look at What it Means to Be White* by Daniel Hill. Both book groups met for 6 weeks.

This fall the committee members are reaching out to various members of the presbytery to hear from you about your hopes & needs and also to get a sense of what anti-racism & equity work is happening in your local churches and communities. If you would like to talk to a committee member, please contact any of our members: Kátia Cunha, Jenny Davis, Kirk Louis, Jenny Peek, Keith Rhoden Jr., Susan Trucksess, David Van Dyke, or Kevin White.

We are also working on planning an upcoming series for People of Color. The Committee is working on curating a series for people of color within the presbytery. If you are interested, or have anyone in your congregations who might be interested, please contact Co-Chair Kirk Louis at kirk.louis@upsem.edu.

For Presbytery Action:

There are no current items for Presbytery Action.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Jenny Peek, co-chair

Kirk Louis, co-chair