

A Report of the Anti-Racism and Equity Team

Presbytery of Southern New England

September 13, 2022

Our mandate as a committee is:

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

Team members:

Rev. Jenny Peek, Co-Chair
Rev. Kevin White, Co-Chair
James Cramer
Katia Dacunha
Rev. Julie Emery
Keith Rhodan
Rev. Susan Trucksess
Rev. David Van Dyke

For Presbytery Information:

The Anti-Racism and Equity team has resumed monthly meetings after not meeting in July. Kirk Louis and Rev. Jenny Davis have rotated off of the team; and the team has welcomed new member Rev. Julie Emery. With Kirk Louis rotating off, Rev. Kevin White agreed to be the co-chair with Rev. Jenny Peek.

On June 3-4 the team co-sponsored an Anti-Racism Leadership Retreat at Westminster, West Hartford for Round Table and those serving on PSNE committees, commissions, and teams. The retreat was facilitated by Jessic Vazquez-Torres and Ryan Lents of Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training.

The purpose of this retreat was to:

- Cultivate the strategic collaboration between Round Table, the Antiracism and Equity Team, Staff, and Contractors.
- Develop a shared vision for the Antiracism work in the PSNE
- Determine how RT and the Antiracism and Equity Team will collaborate in moving forward the vision and aims identified over the next 18 months.

A primary outcome of this retreat was the development of Follow Up Goals for the next 18 months in areas of Relationship Building, the manner in which Presbyter Meetings and Gatherings are held and conducted, Truth Telling and History of Racism/Antiracism in our Presbytery, Shared Language and Framework, and Annual Committee/Commission/Team Leader Training.

All of these areas were identified as ways to unify the ministry of the PSNE with regards to the work of antiracism, and as areas that must be addressed in order to better create an inclusive, equitable, antiracist culture withing the PSNE.

The Antiracism and Equity Team is sponsoring a four-part training session titled *What Is Antiracism and What Does It Require of Us?*

The training will be facilitated and led by Jessica Vazquez-Torres and Ryan Lents of Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training as a four part Zoom Webinar during the months of October and November for the wider Presbytery. The sessions will be 6-8pm Oct. 5, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, and Nov. 16.

A second training session, building on the first, is scheduled for the Spring. Participation in this first one is required for participating in the second.

For Presbytery Action:

There are no current items for Presbytery action.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Kevin White
Co-Chair, Anti-Racism and Equity Team