

2022 SNEC Justice Summit Agenda and Workshops

9 a.m. Registration

9:30 until 10 a.m. – Gathering Worship

10:15 a.m. until Noon – Morning Workshops

- **The work of an all-white congregation** – A variety of factors – many related to historic and contemporary structural racism – congregations often find that the communities in which they serve are all-white. For some, this raises questions of what they can and should do to advance racial justice. This is a time to talk with other congregations about those questions and together arrive at some answers and strategies.
- **Responding to the focus on “critical race theory”** – Communities throughout the country, including in the Southern New England states, have become focused on the idea that schools are teaching “critical race theory” and using this as a justification to ban some books and control what educators teach and how they do it. Participants in this workshop will develop strategies for responding in their local communities and beyond.
- **How can we use our congregation’s money for good?** – Our budgets are statements of our ethics. Join this conversation to explore ways to use ensure your church budget advances racial justice and equity.
- **We want to do reparations!** – Join other congregations to discuss possible ways of exploring and implementing appropriate and impactful reparations programs.
- **Whiteness and trauma** – Becoming aware of the reality of white supremacy and one’s personal or family role in the oppression of people of color can be a traumatic experience. Join others in that position to talk about ways to address that trauma – and the ways it can spark work for transformative social change.
- **How can our congregation become more hospitable to people of color?** If our congregations are to live into the desire to practice radical hospitality, we must have strategic approaches for doing so. We often think we are doing everything right, but when we look more closely, we see the ways our practices are sending subtle messages to the contrary. Join this conversation with others focused on this priority to begin developing your plans.
- **The prophetic imagination** – Discuss ways that the prophetic imagination can transform our theology and practice, and how it can further our efforts for racial justice.
- **Because God says so** – The work for racial justice is not simply a good thing; it is a God thing. If you find yourself struggling to understand or explain to people in your ministry context why this is true, join with others to talk through – or perhaps develop – your theology of racial justice and what you understand as God’s call to act.
- **Transforming worship to transform the congregation** – Congregations sometimes complain that their worship service is “too white.” Join this conversation about what that means, what you can do differently, and how doing that can be part of a new, more racially aware and justice committed ethos within the congregation.
- **For people of color only** – What is the call to and work of people of color members and clergy within a predominantly white congregation? And how can people of color stay engaged in the face of inevitable racism and white supremacy?

continued

12:15 – 1:45 p.m. – Lunch and plenary

Rev. Dr. Velda Love, Lead for Join the Movement Toward Racial Justice Campaign and Minister for Racial Justice at the National Setting of the United Church of Christ, will share about the storytelling, advocacy, and other efforts of the Join the Movement Campaign, and the ways in which we can advance our racial justice efforts by taking part in it.

2 – 2:45 p.m. – Plenary Dialogue between SNEC 2022 Theologians in Virtual Residence Bishop Yvette Flunder and Rev. Dr. Diane Schmitz about moving from discussion to action

3– 4:15 p.m. – Sustaining the Work

Working for racial justice is exhausting and at times overwhelming. These workshops invite us into practices that can help us to sustain the work.

- **[open to all] A constructive dialog about justice, race, and the American way** – with Venson Jordan
- **[open to all] Sustaining the work with GRACE** – with Rev. Susan Gaeta
GRACE is not only the free gift that comes from the love of God, but it is also a spiritual practice. GRACE is an acronym for Grounding - Recalling intention - Attuning to self and other - Considering what will serve and Engaging ethically and Ending well. We will engage the practice to prepare us to engage together around what drives and sustains us in countering white supremacy culture.
- **[for clergy] Soul Care for Ministers in These Times**– with Jennie Isbell Shinn
In a space set apart for clergy peers to gather, we will pause to consider the particular shifts in the "inner landscape" of pastors during the pandemic, and how these influence and inform our social justice work. Questions we may hold together include, "What is the Holy Invitation, today?" and "How is your calling unfolding?"
- **[open to all] Wellness in Ministry** – with Rev. Darrell Goodwin and Rev. Terry Yasuko Ogawa
- **[open to all] How Do We Restore Our Souls in Times of Trial? *The Spirituality of Hospitality*** - with Monica Thomas-Bonnick & Rev. Linda Michele
God is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. You lay me down in lush meadows. You guide me toward tranquil waters, reviving my soul. You lead me down paths of righteousness, for that is your way. So often when we think of hospitality we imagine preparing a table, providing food and drink for our guests. Through the use of multimedia this workshop will invite participants to: imagine themselves as guests receiving hospitality; be open to new ways of looking at hosts; and look at instances of hospitality in scripture as a guide. Monica Thomas-Bonnick and Rev. Linda Michel are members of United Congregational Church, UCC in Worcester. Monica is Vice-President for Lending at Webster5 Bank and Linda is a "retired" UCC pastor. Both serve on the Board of Worcester Area Mission Society.
- **Anchoring Meditation & Deep Listening [open to all]** – with Rev. Matt Carriker
- **[open to all] Invitational yoga** – with Kate Poussant Scarborough
This session will include options for chair/seated yoga, as well as for people with an existing yoga practice to bring a mat and engage their practice in this community.
- **[for People of Color]** – Practicing Resilience: Theory & Practice for Self-Care in the Work – with jess young chang

This session will offer a few practices for how to integrate self-care into folks' day to day: some movement, some breathwork, some journaling, and practical conversation about incorporating them.

4:30 – 5 p.m. -- Closing worship with communion and sending forth