**Theodore Parker UU Church**

**Racial Justice Task Force, 2016-2017 Annual Report**

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| September | **Continued TPC Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF) Meetup.com site, with ~45 TPC and community members sharing comments and links to events on racial justice.** |
| October | **Initiated near-weekly coffee hour Racial Justice Resource Display, conversation, and story gathering. Black Lives Matter wristbands, buttons and yard signs offered.** |
| October 14 | **Film #1: *“Anne Braden: Southern Patriot”*** 30-40 people attended each showing, with discussion over popcorn and soda following. A number of people from the larger community attended. |
| November | **Established ongoing social justice activity clearinghouse on meetup.com with Social Action Committee.** Site has 44 members by end of church year, including people from outside Theodore Parker Church. Dozens of events are publicized. |
| November 18 | **Film #2: *“The Return”*** |
| December | **Pop Quiz #1 in Parish Hall to gather sentiment on public support for Black Lives Matter movement.** |
| January 8 | **Racial Justice Experiential Exercise begins with church service announcement of a proposal on racial justice for congregational deliberation and vote.** |
| January 13 | **“Oh, Glory!” Concert, sponsored with Ministry & Worship Committee** |
| January 20 | **Film #3: *“All the Difference”*** |
| January 22 | **Worship Service on Roots and Branches of spiritual and UU history on racial justice with nine participants offering readings and personal reflections** |
| January 29 | **Racial Justice Experiential Exercise ends**  **Brown Bag Open Discussion** |
| February | **Pop Quiz #2 in Parish Hall** |
| February | **Book Groups read *All-American Boys.*** Five discussions were held at different times and locations, and more than 30 people participated. |
| February 26 | **Brown Bag Open Discussion** |
| March | **Pop Quiz #3 in Parish Hall** |
| March 26 | **Conversation with Black Lives Matter Boston, presented with RISE (Roslindale is for Everyone) and West Roxbury Roslindale Progressives.**  Martin Henson and Karlene Griffiths-Sekou speak to 200 people in Sanctuary, with reception following. |
| March 26 | **Brown Bag Open Discussion** |
| March 31 | **Potluck and discussion of Conversation with BLM Boston, co-sponsored with the Social Action Committee.** Thirty-eight community members attend and share reactions to event. |
| April 7 | **Film #4: “*Dear White People”*** |
| April | **Pop Quiz #4 in Parish Hall: proposed wording for warrant** |
| April 22 | **Warrant posting on public support of Black Lives Matter** |
| April 30 | **Congregational discussion on public support of Black Lives Matter** |
| May 7 | **Congregational vote on public support of Black Lives Matter, with a quorum of 61 members present.** |
|  | **Final Motion #1 as amended at May 7 Meeting: Public Commitment to Racial Justice.** Motion passed by show of hands with nearly all in favor, one opposed, and two abstentions. In addition, four members unable to attend sent words of support; these were not counted as votes, but were read to the meeting.    “As a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Theodore Parker Church covenants to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and to work for justice, equity and compassion in human relations.    As members of this congregation:    • We know that Black lives have been, and continue to be, devalued throughout the history of the United States by slavery, Jim Crow laws, segregation, mass incarceration, violence, and other ongoing manifestations of systemic racism.    • We affirm that Black people have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.    • We acknowledge the need to educate ourselves about the past and present struggles and victories of Black people, and to reflect on our own individual and collective roles in perpetuating racism, and    • We commit to take clear action in solidarity with those most marginalized by institutional power structures and dynamics.”  **Motion #2: Visual Display Affirming that Black Lives Matter**  Motion approved by paper ballot with 51 voting yes and 10 voting no. In addition, four members unable to attend sent words of support; these were not counted as votes, but were read to the meeting.    “As a symbol of this commitment, as a sign of solidarity with Black people, and as an invitation to all people to stand together on the side of love, we will display a public statement affirming that “Black Lives Matter.”  We propose that this statement be a flag, to be designed by the Racial Justice Task Force in conjunction with the Standing Committee, that contains the following elements: • Standing on the side of love • Black Lives Matter • Join the conversation • Theodore Parker Church • UUA chalice symbol.” |
| May-June | **We anticipate that a small group of the Task Force will plan the flag design and rollout, and that planning for the coming will take place as needed.** |

Files documenting this year’s work will be posted on the Theodore Parker Church website and/or the RJTF Google Drive.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bauer and Claire Barker, co-conveners, RJTF