

The Social Justice Council is presenting **White Privilege and Supremacy** as the social justice issue for our involvement and intervention in 2018. Our involvement will be one of study, discussion, and examination. Our intervention will be through the First Sunday Plate Collections and other ways to be determined.

*"This is not optional (understanding white supremacy) for Unitarian Universalists. Our faith is bound up in racial justice work and collective healing."*

*--Reverend Rebecca Hinds on October 22, 2017*

## **Proposal to the Congregation for 2018**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – An Introduction to White Privilege and Supremacy, Institutional Racism, Implicit Bias**

All Congregation Read: *Waking up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving  
Sunday Forums: Tim Wise on White Privilege (video) and discussion on Irving book

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter – A Short History of Institutional Racism in the US: From the Slave Trade to Black Lives Matter: Implications of History Today**

All Congregation Read: *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* by Michael Eric Dyson  
Sunday Forum: Discussion on Dyson book  
Sunday Forum: The Race of Life exercise and discussion  
All Congregation Field Trip to African American Museum of Iowa in Cedar Rapids

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter – Through the Lens of the Obama Years: Reckoning with Race Identity and Trump**

All Congregation Read: *We Were Eight Years in Power* by Ta-Nehisi Coates or 8 Essays in *The Atlantic*. (Members may pick any one of his essays to read.)  
Sunday Forum: Discussion on essays  
Film Showing: 13<sup>th</sup>

### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter – As UUs: Where Do We Go From Here? What Can We As Allies Do and Need to Do?**

All Congregation Read: *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division* by the Reverend William Barber  
Sunday Forum: Discussion on Barber book and possible guest speaker on Protest 101  
Racial Justice in UU Congregations: An Assessment of Our Church

*Because you were born white you have advantages that are systemically, culturally, and psychologically present. These are advantages that have been built up and cemented for hundreds of years.*

*Racism is not the problem. White supremacy is the problem. White supremacy is a white cop being afraid for his life when he encounters an unarmed black man, even though 99% of black people are as non-violent and law-abiding as any other citizen. White supremacy is reading a black-sounding name on a resume and suspecting the person is unqualified or graduated because of affirmative action. White supremacy is buying into the belief that the black family moving in next door will ruin a neighborhood even though they have the same investment in their property as anyone else. This thinking is instinctual. It is a part of our cultural DNA.*

*White supremacy is not racism. White supremacy is the result of racism. White people participate in white supremacy every day, often unknowingly. It is has nothing to do with hate or willful malice.*

*Excerpted in part from The Root*

## First Sunday Plate Collection for 2018

Focus Issue: Understanding White Privilege and Supremacy

**Rank the following organizations from 1 to 8** with 1 being your first choice and 8 being your last choice.

The top 4 choices will be the quarterly recipients of our First Sunday Plate Collections in 2018 if the Congregation chooses to study white privilege and supremacy as our focus next year.

\_\_\_\_\_ African American Museum of Iowa – A statewide museum dedicated to preserving, exhibiting, and teaching Iowa’s African-American History. Located in Cedar Rapids.

\_\_\_\_\_ American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa (ACLU) – Defending and preserving the individual rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and the laws of the US.

\_\_\_\_\_ Black Lives Matter/Iowa – An activist movement, originating in the African-American community that campaigns against violence and systematic racism toward Black people.

\_\_\_\_\_ Iowa Center for Worker Justice – Unites low wage workers in Eastern Iowa across race and immigration status to achieve social and economic justice through education, organizing, direct service, and community alliances.

\_\_\_\_\_ NAACP of Iowa – Works to ensure political, social, and economic equality of rights for all persons and to eliminate race based discrimination.

\_\_\_\_\_ The Sentencing Project – Works for a fair and effective US criminal justice system by promoting reforms in sentencing policy, addressing unjust racial disparities and practices and advocating for alternatives to incarceration.

\_\_\_\_\_ Standing Up for Racial Justice – Supports group of allies coming together to work on dismantling white supremacy and helping to build a racially just society.

\_\_\_\_\_ Unitarian Universalist Black Collective – Provides support, information, and resources for Black UUs and expands the role of Black UUs within our faith.