

Challenging Racism 2016-17 Annual Report
Submitted by Gina Boldman and Kathy McLean

Challenging Racism supports members of this Congregation on their journey toward spiritual growth and self-knowledge about their own racial, ethnic, and/or class privilege. We present programs that affirm the worth and dignity of all and build meaningful connections and community partnerships with others on the same journey and provide opportunities for reflection and action.

This year our programs included monthly drop in circles and discussions about race; a discussion of Rev. William Barber's book *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement*, the UU read of the 2016; a viewing of a Rev. Barber speech with small group discussion afterward; a Standing Rock Forum with Terri Wilkerson, who spent four months at the camp last fall and winter; and many co-sponsored events with various groups, including Justice in the Middle East and Interweave. We sent flowers to the Islamic Center in Ann Arbor after it received hate mail. We sold Black Lives Matter signs at the Social Justice table. And during our Social Justice Moment in Fall 2016, we included "Ten Things Congregants Can Do to Increase Social Justice," an excerpt from *The Third Reconstruction*, in the order of service.

We continue to support the African American Cultural Heritage Museum and ICPJ programs, especially on race and class. In Fall 2017, we plan to actively support the Immigration Coalition and the move toward becoming a sanctuary congregation. We also have several film and discussion events planned: a restorative justice film and a John Lewis documentary. We also plan to co-sponsor a trip with Justice in the Middle East to Dearborn's Arab American Museum.

This year Lucia Heinold, Kathy Friedrichs, Edie Croake, Sandy Eyl, Quincy Northrup, Joanna Courteau, and Kate Warner were our leading program contributors.