

BELOVED CONVERSATIONS

Next Steps Toward Building a Beloved, Multicultural Community

Kick-off Event

When:

Friday, Sep. 26, 6 PM Registration; Light dinner provided
7-9 PM Program
Saturday, Sep. 27, 9 AM- 4 PM Program; Light lunch provided

Where: First Unitarian Church of San José - 160 N Third St., San José, CA 95112

Registration: Contact: Bev Smrha bevsmrha@gmail.com 510.482.3136

Goals:

- Increase the capacities in our congregations for working effectively in multicultural communities and coalitions for social and economic justice
- Decrease the barriers and increase the possibilities for multicultural expressions of Unitarian Universalism to grow

Costs:

- Retreat expenses – approximately \$50-70 per person
- Modest at-home seminar expenses for copies, possible refreshments or honoraria for community speakers (if desired)
- Time commitment for Friday night and all-day Saturday retreat with other participating congregations, and for 8 two-hour seminars at each congregation
- Individual recruitment of participants (recommended)
- Selection of two onsite facilitators who prepare and lead the published curriculum

Accommodations: List of nearby hotels in various price ranges provided. Some homestays available.

Follow-Up Seminars

Eight Two-Hour Seminars at each participating congregation: Each congregation determines the timing of these seminars. First two seminars can be combined in half-day at-home retreat.

Benefits:

- A powerful way for congregations to deepen and practice their multicultural competencies because groups stay together over a period of time
- Works well in congregations where there has been lots of work already done around race and ethnicity *and* in congregations where people may have done little prior work
- Coach provided to support congregational facilitators as they conduct the seminars

Coaches for Beloved Conversations in the PCD are Leslie Takahashi Morris, Nancy Palmer Jones, Jacqueline Duhart, and Mary Foran.

Further Description:

Beloved Conversations: A Congregation Meditates on Race and Ethnicity is an experiential program, created by Dr. Mark A. Hicks, Director of the Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard Theological School. The program uses a small-group-ministry structure to explore the spiritual and intellectual effects of racism in our lives.

The one-and-a-half-day shared retreat (all the congregational teams come together) is followed by eight two-hour small-group sessions in each congregation. The retreat and the sessions include music, movement, poetry, reflection, and focus on lived experience.

Topics include:

- The Footprint of Racial & Ethnic History in Your Community
- Exploring the Dynamic of Racism and Privilege
- Racism Today: Micro-Aggressions & Stereotype Threat
- Congregational Audit: What's in Your Backpack?
- Community Audit: The Experience of Race & Ethnicity in your Community
- Building Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression Skills and Competency
- Toward a New Identity: How Can We Be-in-the-World?
- Collecting our Wisdom: A Celebration of Learning and Commitment

For more details of the program please go to <http://www.meadville.edu/beloved>

Congregations Who Took Part in the PCD's Pilot Year, 2013-2014

- First Unitarian Church of San José
- Mount Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church (Walnut Creek)
- Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church (Hayward)
- Unitarian Universalists of Petaluma

**Curriculum based on *Beloved Conversations: A Congregation Meditates on Race and Ethnicity*,
by Dr. Mark A. Hicks
Offered by the PCD's Racial and Cultural Diversity Network**