

Metropolitan Association, NY UCC Newsletter

August, 2021

Ministering to the
Metropolitan Association
Churches and Ministers

CREATIVITY, COMPASSION, COMMITMENT &
COMMUNICATION

EADMIN@METROUCCNYC.ORG

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Beloved friends and colleagues of Metro! I'm sending you love and good thoughts this beautiful August day. May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you always!

I've been giving some thought to how "triggering" the daily news can be, amplified as it is by social media, as day after day we are reminded of the enduring system of domination that represents the denial and refusal of God's Dream for us, and worse, is capable of tying us up in knots and causes us to want to be hating on something or someone. I'm not alone in this, am I? My day starts out great! And then something pops up on TV or Facebook or Twitter or a headline catches my attention in the newspaper and I am totally thrown off my game.

Some years ago on the suggestion of Rev. Kris Watson, I read Richard Rohr's little book EIGHT CORE PRINCIPLES, in an attempt to stay sane and grounded, and was immediately stunned & stupefied encountering the first principle, which refers to Jesus's way with "sin"--Rohr

makes the case that Jesus regards sin as the act of accusing--whenever one tries to expel and accuse groups, nations, religions, or people, AND SOMEHOW LEAVE OURSELVES OUT OF THE EQUATION, you end up "sinning." He reminds us that Satan, in scripture, is the Accuser, and that there is no record of Jesus getting upset at sinners; he only is upset with those who think they are not sinners. That is different than almost every "religion" in history. Theologian and biblical scholar Walter Wink makes this point repeatedly throughout his work, but the stunning thing to me is how often I evade this insight, and feel righteous accusing others (insert Name here)--of countless acts of stupidity, baseness, fascism, misogyny and racism. Which is not to say that some folk are not perpetrating heinous acts of cruelty or mischief, merely to note that my first gaze is judgmental, and the spiritual discipline of contemplation gifts me with the opportunity to step back and await the Second Gaze, which is the gaze of compassion. Which is the only thing that will save us all, and get us through this difficult season, and maybe the rest of our lives. The work

of Metro and the work of the Church is to organize churches to confront racism and critically examine "Whiteness," so as to place ourselves in the path of reconciliation and healing in our communities. But the first lesson for activists is that even justice work can be an ego and power agenda. "True spiritual action" (as opposed to reaction) demands our own ongoing transformation, often changing sides to be where the pain is, and even requires a new identity, as Jesus exemplified in his great self-emptying (Philippians 2:6-7). Instead of accusing others of sin on the Left or Right, Jesus instead "became sin" -- thus he stood in solidarity with the problem itself, hardly ever with specific "answers" for people's problems. His solidarity and compassion was itself the healing. If you, like me, hear this as just another kind of "quietism" which neglects the prophetic call of the church to do justice...maybe we ought to listen harder? I'm committed to trying. I could use the Second Gaze My first gaze--when of a peaceful quiet morning I read the news or catch a glimpse of someone's face on the news--is to scream at the TV and curse and want to hurt him. My First

Gaze is becoming part of the problem, not the solution. Only the Second Gaze can save us.

These are my thoughts--
Rev. Dr. Gary Percesepe



The Metro Association has several trained facilitators in Sacred Conversations to End Racism.

If you and your church want to begin the journey to dismantle racism and white supremacy contact eadmin@metrouccnyc.org

The United Church of Christ acknowledges and supports the equality of all humans.

We are one of the very few Christian churches that are leading bold and courageous conversations, engaging in direct social activism, and participating in civil disobedience as a way to bring attention to and disrupt racist systems and structures. The reality of racism, white supremacy and nationalism threatens God's sacred human family. As people of faith we remain vigilant anti-racists advocates and activists responding to threats and acts of violence towards our sisters and brothers—our siblings of African, Asian, Latin, and Native descent—whose civil and

human rights are violated on a daily basis.



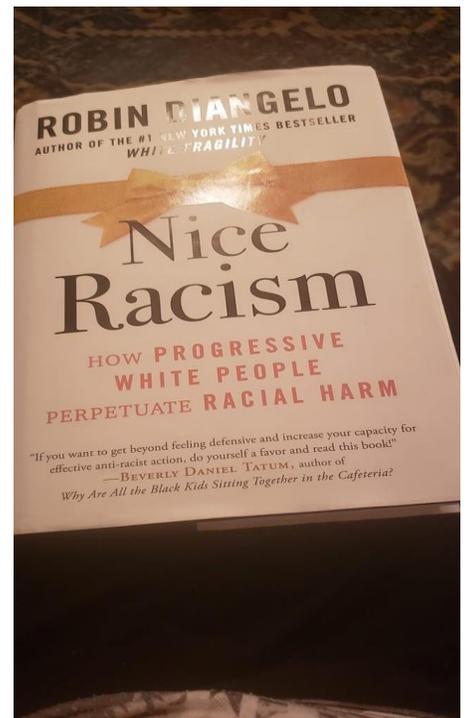
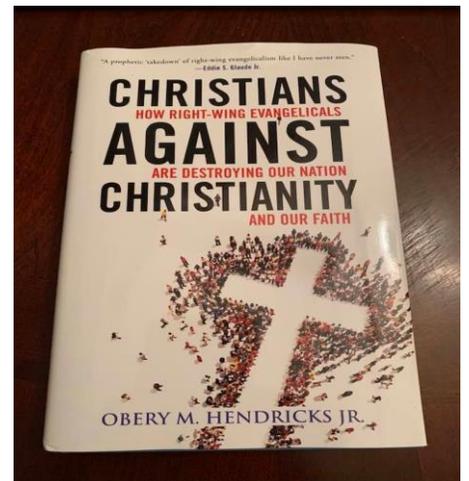
Sacred Conversations to End Racism

Sacred Conversations to End Racism includes learning tools and resources such as books, videos, documentaries, articles, art, and music. These resources represent cultures and people groups whose lived experiences and perspectives are correctives to the historical and contemporary harm, injury, and trauma enacted upon non-European people groups. The ongoing impact of racism and xenophobia in contemporary society requires participants to commit to a life-long journey of dismantling racism and a commitment to do no harm. Everyone is invited to be on the journey as a witness and transformative presence with God's beloved inclusive global community.

Coming Soon from our National Office: Reparatory Justice and Reparations

Reparatory Justice, Truth-Telling, Conciliation and Healing – An Interactive Educational Study Guide for the Christian Church in the 21st Century.

BOOK SUGGESTIONS:

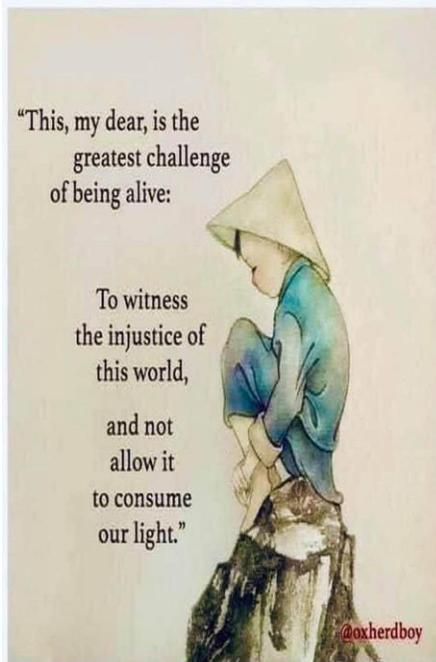


NEW YORK CONFERENCE NEW AND RIGHT SPIRIT PROGRAM:

If your congregation is interested in participating in "Let's Talk Race: A Journey Toward Racial Justice" contact Rev. Gary Smith at racialconsultant@uccny.org

THE METRO ASSOCIATION WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR MINISTRY!

Is there a ministry within your congregation that excites and inspires you? A ministry that serves the community in excellence? We want to know about it! The Metro Board is planning an event to help you highlight what your congregation is doing in the community! Tell us about your ministries that are Spirit inspired and so we can spread the word and sow a seed into the ministry!



NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT?

**Confidential conversations for those who require prayer, supportive ears, resources and tools for church stress, family stress and personal stress. (Referrals available for additional support). Individual conferences fulfill Metro Association clergy continuing education requirements (Referrals are available for additional support). Contact us @ metroclergy@gmail.com*

THE METRO BOARD IS ON A MISSION TO CONNECT OUR CONGREGATIONS WITH EACH OTHER!

Are you interested in partnering with two other congregations to share worship on a Sunday? This can be virtual, in person or hybrid! This is a perfect opportunity to work with your fellow clergy and lay leaders to plan a joint worship service to the Glory of God! Reach out to our Executive Director for ideas or thoughts of clusters of congregations that you can partner with!

Eadmin@metrouccnyc.org

Metro Spiritual Life Committee offers the CLERGY CLINIC

The purpose of the Clergy Clinic is to keep clergy connected to the Association, assist clergy with navigating the challenges of ministry and enhance growth. The SLPC Support for Pastors, Clergy and Lay, partners with the Committee on Ministry to provide essential avenues of communication and prayer. The team: *Rev. Erv Graves, Rev. Carolyn C. Blair, Rev. Dr. Floyd R. Blair*, are available to ensure that your needs are met. **We are asking that all pastors and clergy update their information for the directory as requested by the Metro Office.**

We are planning a Metro Clergy roundtable debrief in October to check in with you to see the state of our clergy. Stay tuned for more information!

If you need prayer and support contact our Metro chaplains

- Dr. Anesta Vannoy-Kwame
disasterchap@metrouccnyc.org
- Rev. Erv Graves
metrochap@metrouccnyc.org



Don't want to risk going to the restaurant? Here is a nice summer recipe by our own Vice Moderator Joycelyn Howell (she is a caterer).

SHRIMP & AVOCADO CUCUMBER SALAD

(Feel free to substitute shrimp for salmon, chicken, etc)

- 1 pound of jumbo cooked shrimp
- 2 cups avocado, diced
- 2 cups cucumber, diced
- 1 cup of tomato, diced
- 1 cup red onion, diced
- 1/2 cup cilantro, chopped

Dressing:

- 2 T. white balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/2 Tsp Dijon mustard
- mandarin orange juice (from slices) about 1 T.
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/2 t. pepper
- 2 garlic cloves minced

Method:

In a large bowl-combines all of the top ingredients.
In a 2nd bowl, add all ingredients of the dressing
Whisk until smooth.
Pour over your salad.
Refrigerate for at least an hour-
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Yessss! nice right?? Don't forget warmed Sourdough bread, waiting for a butter slather.

OFFERINGS FROM THE

PRACITCAL RESOURCE CENTER:

[We Are All Children of God - creating intergenerational church Online, In-Person, and Hybrid](#)

Tuesday, August 17

2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern

Leader - [Rebecca Stevens-Walter](#)

How do we create church (not just worship) where all ages are truly invited? How do we do this online? in person? hybrid? Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." In this directive, we are called to create church that leaves no one distanced or left out from learning about and experiencing the love of Jesus. This webinar will explore some of the opportunities churches have to engage people of all ages in the life of the community. We'll look at worship models, community standards, and safety measures meant to create space, both online and offline, for congregants to come together and practice faith in the ancient way of intentionally intergenerational community.

August 2021



GET VACCINATED!
<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

[It's Not Too Late To Get Your COVID-19 Vaccine: Get Vaccinated Today \(westchestergov.com\)](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Information | Nassau County, NY - Official Website \(nassaucountyny.gov\)](#)

NEW YORK CITY NOW REQUIRES PROOF OF VACCINATION FOR INDOOR DINING AND FITNESS CLUBS.

SHARE YOUR CHURCH COVID SAFE CHURCH POLICY WITH US!

WHAT IS THE ASSOCIATION DOING?

Renewed engagement with lay leaders and members of our Churches. We are establishing a VOLUNTEER CORP! If you want to volunteer for any number of projects, reach out to our Executive Director, Rev. Kris Watson at 646-523-1936. There is a project with your name on it!

Planning for the fall meeting of the Association.

Planning a virtual fall Justice series.

Creating a comprehensive resource guide to wellness for Clergy and lay leaders through the Spiritual Life Committee.

Searching for grant opportunities to assist our churches to thrive and grow.

Communicating with churches and clergy via the Newsletter.

Receiving applications for the Louise Manigault Scholarship for the fall of 2021.

Working with congregations to bring them into the Association.

Continuing to support the ministers of the Association through our Committee on Ministry.

PLEASE VISIT AND LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HAPPENINGS IN THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION!

Spread the news of all that Metro Association is offering to its members, churches, and ministers!

Share this newsletter with your congregation!

Reach out to us to see how you can get involved and volunteer your time talent and treasure!

Do you have a bright idea or project for us to engage in? Develop the idea and share it by e mailing our Executive Director at eadmin@metronyucc.org

Does your church need pulpit supply? We have a diversity of ministers willing and able to help. Please reach out to eadmin@metronyucc.org or call Rev. Kris Watson on her cell at 646-523-1936.

Job Openings:

OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS LOOKING FOR AN ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE OFFICE OF THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION New York UCC

For full job description and more information contact our ED at eadmin@metrouccnyc.org

This position is mostly remote

SUMMARY: Provide a variety of complex administrative support duties to the Executive Director, including: management of Google Workspace, Zoom Technology, online banking and bill pay, monitoring collections and recording of Association member dues, management of office equipment and technology, assisting with special outreach projects, communications and correspondence with Association members, clergy, Board and churches.

QUALIFICATIONS

AS or BS required
Proficient in MS Office suite, Email, Google Office, GSuite for Education, Internet, Zoom technology, Vanco Payment system. The ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously with high level of confidentiality. Must have strong customer service ability. Requires strong communication skills, both verbal and written, organizational skills, both analytical and problem solving, and the ability to work with confidential documents. Ability to manage multiple tasks and achieve deadlines under pressure.

The Congregational Church of Manhasset is seeking a for an experienced Digital Marketing Associate to assist the ministers with digital communications for the church.

Digital Marketing Associate

We are looking for an experienced Digital Marketing Associate to assist the ministers with digital communications for the church.

Responsibilities: live streaming and/or recording videos at 10 AM Sunday services and other occasional events (ex. concerts, adult education programs, guest speakers, etc.) Postproduction/editing of service/events, whether live streamed or pre-recorded. Responsible for posting worship services across all social media platforms, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and distributing through Mailchimp. Responsible for sending out weekly announcements to the congregation from the ministers via Mailchimp template and social media postings. Responsible for editing and sending out weekly inspirational materials from the ministers (60 second sermons etc.) through Mailchimp and social media. Responsible for creating collateral material with customized images for marketing of events and scheduled weekly activities to be posted on social media and other marketing platforms. This also will involve producing, photocopying of the weekly church service bulletins and occasional mailing materials to the congregation. Qualifications: Experience with digital marketing, media production of marketing materials, Experience with creative solutions to communications projects

Requirements: Ability to work at The Congregational Church of Manhasset on Sundays and holidays as needed. Work 18 hours per week. Reports to the Senior Minister. Contact

info@uccmanhasset.org

North Church is searching for a part time Sexton for more information please contact:

northchurchtrustees3@gmail.com

