

District Anti-Racism and Diversity Committee Helps Congregations Move Forward in Justice-Making

The District Anti-Racism and Diversity Committee (ARDC) has just returned from its fall retreat. We are excited! We are inspired! We are enthusiastic! We are looking forward to serving you!

The ARDC works to nurture and support the broad range of diversity and anti-racism work being done within our District. For information, please visit the ARDC website: <http://www.antiracism.net>.

Please save the date of our next District-wide Conclave with a focus on anti-racism, anti-oppression, and diversity: February 25, 2006.

Now, a recap of some of the things we've proudly done or provided for District congregations over the past year and can do for yours:

- Helped congregations to define the kind of anti-racism and anti-oppression programs that meet the needs of the congregations as well as those of neighboring local communities;

- Provided resources including books and films;

- Pulpit supply to worship leaders in the areas of anti-racism and social justice issues;

- Confidential support in trouble-shooting sensitive issues and complex situations;

- Enthusiastic support for youth, young adults and older adults engaged in anti-racism by featuring them as leaders and presenters at session and workshops at our last Conclave;

- Website that is full of useful information.

Here are some of our new "learnings":

- We will need to find new ways to work with our youth and young adults as we engage in this work;

- All constituencies need to be involved in the processes of fighting against oppressions;

- All constituencies need to be involved in promoting the value of working on the congregational and district level;

- We are moving from a model of assimilation to a model of people of color and whites working together as allies.

We want to meet with you and your congregation or group. We want to know how we can help you to move the work of justice-making forward. We have resources that we want to share with you.

Please answer our calls when we reach out. Please feel free to call us. On behalf of our committee, please know that we are ready to serve

Sincerely,

ARDC Co-Chairs

Rev. Hope Johnson, yourshope@aol.com
Carl Heath, ceheath_cti@compuserve.com