

Understanding Racism

Report to the 1U Annual Congregational Meeting – May 19, 2019

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Tetlow

Wrestling With Our Understanding of Race is an open discussion meeting on the first Sunday of each month after church. The events of the past few years have called our attention to issues of race, and understanding our relationship to those issues. Each week our attention is drawn to another event in the public eye around race and justice. Many of us are wrestling with understanding and responding to our experience, our emotions, and what we are called to do. It can be difficult, and for some of us it is destabilizing. Let us remain open in our hearts to this journey. We participated in deep conversations with the hope for greater understanding, healing and spiritual development. You may find readings and resources at <https://wrestlingwithrace.wordpress.com/>. During the last year, we met monthly with 10-20 participants each month. We discussed readings, videos and experiences to deepen our own understanding of race.

Beloved Conversations: Meditations on Race and Ethnicity was offered in the fall of 2018. Our Beloved Conversations experience started with a weekend retreat in September followed by 8 weeks of small group meetings and activities. Fourteen (14) participants completed the program. We were challenged with seeing our anti-racism/anti-oppression work as a “spiritual practice” as we explored how our own experience with race and ethnicity shaped our lives.