

MN Conference UCC Ad Hoc Anti-Racism Committee

Jane McBride, chair

Over this year, the Ad Hoc Anti-Racism Committee has focused on creating a structure that will allow antiracism work to be a permanent, ongoing part of our Conference identity. We have continued to work with consultants from Crossroads Anti-Racism Organizing and Training. The consultants led a day-long retreat and provided support and guidance for our monthly meetings.

Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation, the Conference Board voted unanimously to send to the membership a bylaw change that would establish a new standing committee: the Committee to Dismantle White Supremacy.

We envision this committee as a catalyst for dismantling white supremacy and building beloved community in the Minnesota Conference. The transformation we ultimately seek is a new and more life-giving way of being church. This work will require collaboration between the new Committee and the already established functions of the conference – the board, committees, working groups, and teams, as well as staff, clergy and congregations. Dismantling white supremacy necessarily has a principle focus on the legacy of racism in American culture; at the same time we intend the work of the Committee to be intersectional, addressing all of our needs for liberation.

The Ad Hoc Anti-Racism Committee developed and implemented a plan to communicate with members of the Conference about this vision. We created written pieces and videos for the Commantary, website and social media. These pieces centered our personal stories about why the work of dismantling white supremacy is important for our church to undertake.

The Ad Hoc Committee also reached out to BIPOC members of the Conference to listen to their perspectives, to seek their feedback and to invite their partnership. The new Committee will continue this work of accountability, seeking to deepen relationships and expand the diversity of folks we are in dialogue with.