

Dear Friends:

Two years ago our beloved yearly meeting heeded God's call to embark on the journey of ending racism in NYYM and its constituent monthly meeting (MMs). The yearly meeting has undertaken this as a priority through the following activities:

- Task Group on Racism in NYYM-formation (2005)
- Speakers at the yearly meeting including Vanessa Julye, Donna McDaniels, Ruby Braye, Irma Guthrie and Niyonu Spann
- Worship groups,
- Workshops
- Readings
- Spark issue and articles
- Bayard Rustin Documentary

Some individual monthly meetings have responded by preparing minutes and reports on racism.

The Task Group on Racism in NYYM (TGR), under the care of MCC, has the mission of helping to end racism in NYYM. To this end, we are furnishing MMs with the attached material to help them get started.

**1. A self-facilitated workshop entitled “Fostering Inclusion in Our Meetings.”**

Here you will find ways to examine yourself and discover what you may not consciously know about racial privilege and racial pain, and what you can do to change these attitudes within your monthly meeting. We include Asian Americans, African Americans, Latinos, American Indians, European Americans, and those of mixed heritage as we respect and are inclusive of self-identifications.

The six sessions are self-explanatory and the process is under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The workshop involves:

- Worship Sharing focused on a query,
- Distributing the appropriate appendix page for examination,
- Considering potential changes in your Monthly Meeting practices.

Proceed undertaking one session at a time without looking ahead at the later appendix pages. You may want to take out the entire appendix, distributing the appropriate page at its own session time. The crux of this methodology is that we first heed the Spirit, then supplement with the letter in order not to outrun the guide. We recommend that the sessions be conducted in sequence and at separate times.

**2. A resource packet.**

It is detailed to be comprehensive anti-racism source, not that you will make use of all that is included. Choosing a book or video is made easier because descriptions of each are included. The articles are included in their entirety so that you can immediately absorb their content. The highly recommended curricula offered by Teaching Tolerance is described and if you choose to obtain their information, a free ordering form is provided. Lastly, we include “Apologies for their Racism by Other Faith Communities” for your reference, simply because we do not know how the Spirit will lead your community.

We ask you to use this material with your meetings. We are all on this journey together in NYYM to simply love each other.

Task Group on Racism in NYYM