

Sacred Conversation on Race

Written by Margaret Rohdy

Please list the members currently serving on your ministry or leadership team.

- ❖ Billi Amos Charron, Bobbie Benjamin, Clark Dingman, Nancy Donohue, Barbara Gurley, Rochelle Hammond, Michael Johnson, Delilah Marrow, Tony Merlo, Bob Polk, Margaret Rohdy, Marjorie Rose, Bob Schneider, Beth Walker, Jackie Williams, Gerry Woodroffe. (Listed alphabetically, with apologies to anyone who is omitted.)

Please list what the goals of your group or ministry were for 2017.

- ❖ Work with Penn Southeast Conference to present *White Privilege: Let's Talk* workshops.
- ❖ Increase participation in planning and attending mission team activities.

Were you able to achieve your goals for 2017? Please be as specific as possible of your successes and failures.

- ❖ Modest, at best

Where is your group or ministry area stuck? What is your group or ministry area pondering?

- ❖ We have had little success in furthering our commitment to programming on white privilege. Several members attended a workshop organized by the Penn Southeast Conference and led by Julie Steiner, based on the UCC "White Privilege: Let's Talk" curriculum. Julie's gold-star teaching skills could not overcome the deficiencies of the curriculum, so it was hard to see what further use we might make of it at Old First.
- ❖ In response to a proposal to post a Black Lives Matter sign along with our Be The Church sign, the Elders asked the SCOR team for a recommendation on what the church should do. There was a thorough and lively discussion that perhaps ended with more questions than answers. Follow-up was ineffective. We note that no Black Lives Matter sign has appeared and we need to be sure that's what we wanted to happen.

What do you hope to accomplish in the coming 2018 year

- ❖ When we have a specific idea for a program, planning is energetic and well-done. Old Firsters are interested in *learning* more about racism and racial justice, to have the knowledge and tools they need to be more confident when confronting the racism that is ever more present in our political and social life. Develop programs with this in mind.

What are the ways that the church can support your team?

- ❖ Work on white privilege programming. Consider using the new, improved UCC Curriculum, but there is general agreement that an outside consultant who is experienced in leading these conversations is the best way to begin.