

ALBANY UU SERVICE OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Service Opportunity Name/Title Inclusivity Team Chair

Service Opportunity Brief Description:

The Inclusivity Team works to ensure that all individuals within our community feel welcome, seen, and heard. Specifically, the Team is tasked with addressing systemic racism and white privilege at Albany UU. The chair prepares an agenda for the monthly meetings, and either facilitates the meetings or lines up a member to facilitate.

Service Opportunity Detailed Description:

In order to make daily life more inclusive at Albany UU, to assure that all who enter as visitors or members feel that their unique differences are received, respected, appreciated, and recognized as a source of strength for our community, the Team takes a pro-active approach.

The Team's two-pronged approach to addressing inclusivity issues in our congregation is, first, to elevate the discussion, introspection, and understanding regarding privilege, and second, to evaluate Albany UU policies, programming, practices, assumptions, and attitudes, and make recommendations concerning inclusivity, diversity, and potential barriers to participation.

The Team works in many areas to achieve its goals:

- Sponsoring readings and discussion of books on the topic of race and white privilege;
- Holding movie nights with discussion afterwards;
- Arranging educational classes and workshops;
- Organizing and sponsoring Sunday services on the topic of race and white privilege;
- Publishing articles in the weekly church newsletter and the Sunday Order of Service, along with suggested reading or viewing materials;
- Purchasing books for Joy Library for members to check out and read.

The Team meets once a month, usually after the Sunday service, during the regular church year September through June. In addition to the agenda and facilitation at these meetings, the chair is responsible for organizing subteams to work on the many projects the team decides to undertake.

Length of Service Commitment: no specific term

This opportunity will enable you to contribute to profound positive changes in our community's culture. Though the results of this Team's efforts are slow and the work is never expected to be fully complete, working with a large team of committed individuals dedicated to anti-racism and the ending of white privilege and the centering of whiteness in our congregation is reward enough in itself. As the chair, it is your skill that guides the team, passionate about the issues of racism and white privilege, towards constructive action to actuate change.

Skills Needed:

The Team Chair must be well organized, good at leading people toward agreement on goals, and into appropriate action to achieve those goals.

Training, assistance, and safety requirements:

Other team members bring a wealth of knowledge about the topics of racism and white privilege. The team chair does not need to be an expert in these areas.

Number of positions available: __1__

Key words: facilitating