

Building the World We Want: From Just Us to Justice

Thomas Jefferson District 2010 Anti-Racism Conference (Oct. 8th-10th)
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond

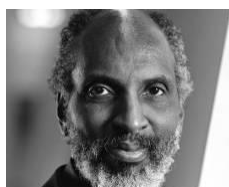
Program Overview

Opening Session (7pm Friday) – *Building Community by Building on a Legacy*

Rev. Nan White and Jim Key, TJ District President, will discuss the partnership between Penn Center and the UU Fellowship of Beaufort. In April 1862, Laura M. Towne, a Unitarian from Philadelphia, came to the Sea Islands of South Carolina to minister to the health and educational needs of slaves who had been abandoned by their masters with U.S. Army's capture of Hilton Head and St. Helena Islands, a cause to which she remained committed until her death in 1901. Towne established the Penn School that operated for 100 years before becoming Penn Center, a community center for African-American and Gullah culture. Unitarian Universalism returned to Beaufort in 1999 when the UU Fellowship of Beaufort was organized. Over the past decade, the Beaufort Fellowship has renewed Unitarian and Universalist historical connections to Penn Center and has been enriched by their collaboration with the St. Helena Island community.

Keynote Address (9am Saturday) by **Professor John A. Powell, J.D.** – *Race, Place, & Opportunity: The Role of Structures in (Re)Producing Inequality*

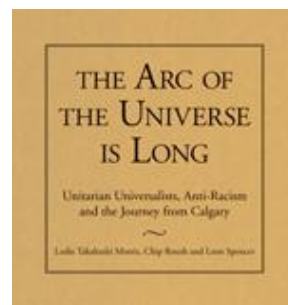
Many low-income communities, particularly communities of color, are spatially isolated and segregated from critical opportunities. This geographic isolation creates artificial barriers for these residents, limiting not only individuals' life chances, but also reducing the development capacity of the entire region. This keynote will examine the role such structures play in the creation, maintenance, and perpetuation of present-day racial disparities, and provide participants with ideas for ensuring equitable access to opportunities for all in their own communities.



Professor John A. Powell, J.D., is an internationally recognized authority in the areas of civil rights, civil liberties, and issues relating to race, ethnicity, poverty and the law - currently Executive Director of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race & Ethnicity, and Williams Chair for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Morwitz School of Law.

Lunch Presentation (12:15pm) – *The Arc of the Universe is Long: Unitarian Universalists, Anti-Racism, and the Journey from Calgary*

Dr. Leon Spencer, one of the three co-authors of this book (Skinner House, 2009), will discuss the recent history of the UUA journey toward becoming an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural movement, focusing on the 14 years from the passage of the racial and cultural diversity resolution at Calgary in 1992 through General Assembly 2006.



For more information, go to <http://www.tjdistrict.org/newsevents/antiracismconference.html>

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Concurrent Workshops (Saturday, 10:15-11:30am and 1:30-2:45pm)

Workshop A (Great Hall): Understanding Race and Place

Do you want to uncover the connections between location and race in your community? Discuss how to find and use tools available to analyze race and place with a scholar who has engaged in cross-race, cross-gender collaboration to teach the relationship between race and place, offering a model for accountability and reconciliation applicable to your congregation and your community.

Presenter: Dr. Andrea Simpson, Associate Professor of Political Science, Univ. of Richmond

Workshop B (Middle Studio): Race, Poverty, and Locality

Once inequities caused by the complex relationships between race and place are understood, attempts to address them can quickly become mired in dry statistics, bureaucratic jargon, and legalese that drains them of their real-life implications for the people affected. Using Richmond (VA) as a case study, this workshop offers effective ways to make the spiritual and moral case that race and place matter, as well as strategies for building anti-racist collaborations among diverse communities of faith.

Presenter: Dr. John V. Moeser, Senior Fellow, Bonner Center for Civic Engagement, Univ. of Richmond; Professor Emeritus in Urban Studies & Planning at Virginia Commonwealth Univ.

Workshop C (Douglasdale): Unitarian Universalist Tools for Diversity and Anti-Racism

The Unitarian Universalist Association offers several tools for congregations working to overcome racism and build diverse spiritual communities: *Journey Toward Wholeness*, the JUUST Change consultancy, and *Building the World We Dream About*. Gain insight into approaches best suited for your congregation by discussing these tools and their appropriate uses with experienced trainers, consultants and the author of the association's *Building the World We Dream About* curriculum.

Presenters: Dr. Mark Hicks, Angus MacLean Professor of Religious Education, Meadville Lombard Theological School, JUUST Change Consultant, & *Building the World We Dream About* author; Dr. Leon Spencer, Jubilee World trainer, member of the UUA Nominating Committee, & former UUA trustee; Paula Cole Jones, UUA JUUST Change Consultancy Coordinator; and Bob Gross, former *Journey Toward Wholeness* committee member.

Workshop D (Downstairs): Standing on the Side of Love for Immigration Reform

Our UU principles call on us to respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person, yet aspects of our nation's immigration policies and many reforms being debated violate that principle. On July 29, 2010, over 100 UU's elevated awareness about this issue by witnessing in Phoenix. At the 2010 General Assembly, member congregations voted to make immigration reform the focus of our 2012 General Assembly in Phoenix. What does this mean and how can you get involved? Find out in this session.

Presenter: Annette Marquis, TJ District Executive

Workshop E (Downstairs): The TJ District Name: How Open is this Door to Our Faith?

The district's vision begins, "We are a vibrant, diverse faith community of healthy congregations that is a prophetic model of anti-racism and anti-oppression." At the TJD's 2010 Annual Meeting, a motion to consider changing the district name fell three votes short of the 2/3rds majority required to pass. What happens now? Learn what is happening in regard to this discussion and what you can do to help us become the "prophetic model of anti-racism and anti-oppression" we strive to be as a faith community.

Presenter: Jim Key, TJ District President

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