

September Outreach of the Month

Congregations Organizing for Racial Reconciliation (CORR)

While building ULC's racial justice ministry, we have been blessed to find Congregations Organizing for Racial Reconciliation (CORR). CORR exists to empower and equip churches and other Christian organizations to organize and disciple their members to be agents for life-long biblical racial justice. A fundamental way that CORR does this is by leading workshops on understanding racism. Eighteen people from the ULC community attended one of these workshops last April.

ULC is benefiting greatly from having access to CORR's workshops and coaching. We encourage you to make a donation to CORR as the September Outreach of the Month to help ensure that CORR's support, expertise, and leadership continue to be available to ULC and other congregations in Michigan. You may donate by sending a check to the church or on-line using the "donate" button on the ULC website www.ulcel.org. Please indicate "CORR" in the memo.

The following is from the "CORR Statement on Racism" dated June 12, 2020:

"In this moment of nationwide outcry following the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and other children of God, the vision of CORR (Congregations Organizing for Racial Reconciliation) for the beloved community remains constant. For 20 years, CORR has been confronting the sin of racism and working to dismantle white supremacy.

CORR's vision: that individuals and institutions be equipped for life-long biblical antiracism by creating a robust theology of justice through which we all can pursue Shalom.

We do this through three paths:

Education: Learning about Race, Racism, and the impact of both on society is important. The more we learn, particularly to help unlearn the lies we have been taught, the more we accept the truths about what is going on. The more we learn, the less we are tempted to deny the realities in which we find ourselves.

Internalization: We have been socialized since the inception of this country. Our socialization leads to a very deep seated and corrupt way of thinking, a societal way of thinking masterminded by the devil himself. This internalization is contrary to who God says we are. To dismantle racism, we have to first dismantle the disruptive thinking that keeps us from being unified.

Organizational Strategy: We establish and provide long term coaching to teams within churches and other institutions. These teams, guided by education and internalization

caucusing, enact systemic changes that lead to unraveling racism starting in their own institutions.

To those new to the work, welcome. To those who have been walking the road of anti-racism for years, strength to you. We have been doing this work for years, and the road ahead of us is long. But Christ walks beside us. Let's do our work."

We are grateful to the ULC Endowment for providing funding to enter into a coaching agreement with CORR. The ULC Racial Justice Team is working with the CORR coaches to develop long-term, anti-racism strategic plans and goals for ULC. CORR will also assist ULC to connect with/join with anti-racism efforts within our community.

Listen and watch for information about the next CORR "Understanding Racism" workshop that will be held virtually on Nov. 12 & 13.

Vicki Anderson and Thom McCurdy
ULC Racial Justice Team Co-leaders