

Committee on Anti-Racism & Equity (CARE)
at First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville

OUR PURPOSE

The CARE team works to:

- 1) Help the members of our congregation become more aware of the systemic racism that exists in our community and our country,
- 2) Develop opportunities for members of our community to engage in anti-racism work through learning, prayer and action, and
- 3) Deepen our congregation's commitment to becoming an anti-racist institution.

OUR HISTORY

This group was launched in June 2020 as the Anti-Racism & Equity Task Force. CARE became a standing committee of the First Pres Session at on September 6, 2021, and has been responsible for the creation and facilitation of dozens of program offerings, studies, and learning opportunities in our community. As a result of CARE programs, First Pres members and community members have engaged in many learning experiences and conversations about systemic racism. The team also works to build fruitful partnerships with local community-based Bridge Partners, as well as Lake County United, a consortium of faith communities in our area. The group has also facilitated ecumenical partnerships to help educate members on systemic racism, along with celebrations of Juneteenth and other observances of remembrance related to people of color. The group has planned and catalyzed Love Every Neighbor CARE Conversations exploring the perspectives of those in the Filipino-American, Indigenous and Latino/a/x communities, as well as a deep dive with the wisdom of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The team has launched a bi-monthly newsletter, *Beloved Community News*, and has developed and implemented a land acknowledgement practice for our church.

OUR TEAM STRUCTURE

The CARE Team is made up of pastoral staff, Session members (ordained church leaders) and members of our congregation who volunteer their time for five main functions:

- **Leadership** - Coordinate the efforts of the team and advocate for the work of C.A.R.E. in the leadership circles of the church
- **Communications** - Publish a bi-monthly newsletter about the work of C.A.R.E.
- **Curriculum/Content Development** - Create and curate entry-level and deeper learning opportunities, organizing field trips, and cultural recognitions
- **Policy/System Work** - Housing Equity & Voter Engagement work
- **Bridge Work** - Efforts to contribute to a variety of community-based Bridge Partners

MEETING PRACTICES

The full team meets monthly year-round, with a lighter schedule in the summer. Most meetings are hosted on Zoom with a few in-person meetings per year. Meetings last around 1.5 to 2 hours and often include breakouts for subgroups to meet and conduct planning and other business. We'd love to see you on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 on zoom for a no-obligation "open house" meeting--reach out to Vanessa Griffin (vngriffin@comcast.net) for a zoom invitation.

If you feel called to the lifelong work of uprooting racism and growing Beloved Community we'd love to talk to you!

For more information about joining the CARE Team, contact Anna Groebe (847-804-3648, annagroebe@gmail.com) or Vanessa Griffin (773-330-2456, vngriffin@comcast.net).



First Presbyterian Church
CARE
BRIDGE PARTNERS

Empathy is not simply a matter of trying to imagine what others are going through, but having the will to muster enough courage to do something about it."

~ Cornell West

"He has told you, human one, what the Lord requires of you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God."

MICAH 6:8

"AS WE THINK OF WHERE WE ARE GOING AND HOW FAR WE'VE COME, WE HAVE TO REALIZE THERE IS WORK ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT RIVERBANK THAT STILL MUST BE DONE."

~ The Rev. Keion Jackson
Associate for African American Congregational Support
PC(USA)

Bridge Partners 2024-2025

These vetted organizations accomplish critical community support work in Lake County and beyond. We invite and encourage all whose hearts are open to the work of uprooting racism and growing Beloved Community to choose one way to build relationships and cross boundaries with a spirit of love and repair.



The Mosaic Hub is a Christian discipleship community in North Chicago that hosts Bible studies, fellowship, and worship as well as youth programming in the arts, cooking, fitness, and gardening. They also make their space available for local art exhibits and community events. The Hub is part of Mosaic House Ministries. **Volunteer opportunities** include working in their new gardens.

Contact: mosaic@mosaichouseministries.org

First Pres members who are involved include Leslie Koehler, Beth Schrag, Rob Heinrich, Tucker Olson, and Dan Brame.



Lake County United is a consortium of people from Lake County churches and houses of worship that unite to advocate for policy changes that will improve quality of life for Lake County residents. **Volunteer to help** with a variety of community organizing projects related to advocating for attainable housing, common sense gun laws and much more.

Contact: lakecountyunitedil@gmail.com

First Pres members who are involved include Kristin Marsden, Sue Kalman, and Elyse Danckers.



Youth Conservation Corps in Waukegan mentors young people, ages 16-24, who have left high school without a diploma and are unemployed. Participants earn their GED and participate in training for jobs in construction, IT, and conservation while they also learn career and life skills to get back on track.

Volunteer with beautification projects at their location, help with a community garden, and much more.

Contact: Jennifer Yonan at info@youthconservationcorps.org

First Pres members who are involved include Jennifer Yonan (Executive Director) and Bob Shears.



Roberti Community House is a community center in Waukegan that provides free lunches and a food pantry as well as classes in English, sewing, and cooking. They also host after-school activities and summer camps. Their culinary program trains people to work in the food service industry through their catering program and café. **Volunteer opportunities** include working with children and youth and making food pickups and deliveries.

Contact: Pam Fisher at volunteerrch@gmail.com

First Pres members who are involved include Carmen Lago, Dan Brame, and Dave Marsden.



Waukegan to College fills a crucial gap in the Waukegan school system by preparing first-generation college students and their families for university admissions and beyond. They provide tutoring and mentoring for middle and high school students, assistance with college and aid applications, and resources for students and parents. **Volunteer opportunities** include tutoring, mentoring, and reading assistance.

Contact: Laura Rios at office@waukegantocollege.org

First Pres members who are involved include Elyse Danckers, Founding Executive Director, and Dan Brame.



The Legacy Reentry Foundation in Waukegan is a faith-based not-for-profit organization that helps people who are formerly incarcerated reintegrate into society. They assist with employment and therapeutic services, social service applications, home furnishings, clothing, and life skills. Additionally, they mentor at-risk youth and provide them with experiences in the arts. **Volunteer opportunities** include sorting clothes at the Community Closet, staffing the front desk, and tutoring at the youth center.

Contact: Pastor George and ReGina Moore at legacyreentryfoundation@gmail.com

First Pres people who are involved include Rob Heinrich and Rev. Amy Heinrich.



Big Brothers Big Sisters in North Chicago is part of the oldest mentoring organization in the United States. They match adults and children in a 1:1 relationship to foster educational achievement, positive choices, and socio-emotional competency. **Volunteers** can either serve as a site-based mentor, meeting their "Little" in a facilitated group setting, or as a community-based mentor, picking up their "Little" for community outings.

Contact: Dawn Steffen at steffen@bbbschgo.org

We are not aware of any First Pres members involved yet.



The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery is a group of people who work together to mobilize Christian church communities to dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery and follow Indigenous leadership. First Pres members have been exploring the work of the Coalition and working on building relationships with Indigenous neighbors by sponsoring and **attending the annual Potawatomi Trails Pow Wow in Zion, Illinois** each August (August 24 & 25, 2024). **To learn more about ways to participate** in the Coalition visit <https://dismantleddiscovery.org/join-the-coalition/>.

First Pres members involved with these explorations and projects include Dan Brame, Vanessa Griffin, Beth Schrag, Anna Groebe, and Barb Peter.

CALL FOR FUTURE BRIDGE PARTNERS - *First Pres is interested in connecting individuals with new ways to take anti-racist action and build relationships. If your organization would make a good Bridge Partner or you know of an organization that helps uproot racism and grow Beloved Community, contact Rev. Amy Heinrich (aheinrich@boxp.net) to share your idea!*