



Building Racial Justice Takes All of Us: The Living the Pledge to End Racism Workshop

The **Pledge to End Racism** is a personal commitment to work on ourselves and with others throughout our community to address racism in all its forms. The Roanoke Pledge to End Racism Steering Committee (composed of leaders from Williams Memorial Baptist Church and Unitarian Universalist Church of Roanoke) invite you to participate in the **Living the Pledge to End Racism Workshop**.

What is the Living the Pledge Workshop?

The **Living the Pledge Workshop** is a 12-hour series designed to give participants confidence in their ability to talk about and confront racism wherever they find it. In the workshop, participants

- Explore their experience with people of other races and examine their own implicit biases
- Learn how to speak up when they witness racist acts
- Learn how to recognize and challenge systemic racism
- Develop a personal action plan to support the work toward ending racism in our community, our culture, and our lives.

Who is this workshop for?

This workshop is for people who want to deepen their understanding of and commitment to anti-racism. It is suitable for adults and high-school aged teens.

What are the workshop dates and topics?

Day/Date	Time	Module	Title
Thurs. Oct. 6	6:30-8:30pm	1	Foundations for Understanding
Thurs. Oct. 13	6:30-8:30pm	2	Recognizing and Confronting Bias
Thurs. Oct. 20	6:30-8:30pm	3	Speak Up Against Microaggressions
Thurs. Oct. 27	Break	No class	
Thurs. Nov.3	6:30-8:30pm	4	Structural and Institutional Racism
Thurs. Nov.10	6:30-8:30pm	5	The Movement for Black Lives
Thurs. Nov.17	6:30-8:30pm	6	Personal Commitment to Ending Racism

What is the workshop format?

The Living the Pledge Workshop will be conducted virtually, via Zoom. All workshop sessions include presentations, videos, and small group discussions with trained facilitators. Participants prepare for each session by reading articles and watching short videos that are sent in advance via weekly e-mails. Each participant from a household will need to use his or her own laptop, desktop, or large tablet with web camera and microphone for the workshop sessions. Mini-tablets and smart phones do not work well for this purpose.

How do I register?

Space is limited and registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis, starting **on September 1 and ending on September 30**. To register for the Living the Pledge to End Racism Workshop, e-mail us at racialjusticeteam@uuroanoke.org during the registration period.

Please do not sign up unless you can commit to attending all six sessions. If you are interested in participating in a Living the Pledge Workshop but cannot attend on all of the dates listed, please let us know and we will notify you of future workshop dates as they become available.

Questions?

Contact us at racialjusticeteam@uuroanoke.org.

The Pledge to End Racism (adapted from the Birmingham Pledge)

I believe that every person has worth as an individual.

I believe that every person is entitled to dignity and respect, regardless of race or color.

I believe that every thought and every act of racial prejudice is harmful; if it is my thought or act, then it is harmful to me as well as to others.

Therefore, from this day forward, I will strive daily to eliminate racial prejudice from my thoughts and actions.

I will discourage racial prejudice by others at every opportunity.

I will treat all people with dignity and respect.

I will commit to working with others to transform my church and community into a place that treats people of all races, ethnicities, and cultures with justice, equity, and compassion, and

I will strive daily to honor this pledge, knowing that the world will be a better place because of my effort.



“The Pledge workshop crystalized a lot of things for me and got me going. I have been much more active in anti-racist work since I took it and have continued to learn and grow. I have also seen it transform our church community in subtle and important ways.”
(2020 participant)

The Roanoke Pledge to End Racism Initiative is part of a larger, national initiative. For information about the National Pledge to End Racism go to <https://pledgetoendracism.org>.