**Vigilance for Communities of Faith**

**Description**

**Intermediate:** This workshops is designed for participants who already have some working knowledge of systems of privilege and oppression. Participants will be challenged to **apply** their knowledge and analyze effective ways to dismantle racism as it manifests in their daily lives, institutions, and society-at-large.

**Specific skills participants will walk away with by attending the workshop:**

**Gains in the following areas:**

(1) Critical analysis skills – what is present, what is absent, what is needed, how best to proceed

(2) Application skills – using the model “Educate, Celebrate, Agitate, Evaluate” and applying the model to participants’ context

(3) Interrogation skills – raising such questions as why faith communities have been slow in developing antiracism understandings and been slow in addressing “the white racial frame” (Feagin 2013) within and without the faith communities.

**Workshop Learning Objectives:**

Participants will learn skills to identify what vigilance looks like and what it requires of individuals and faith communities in the context of

(1) identifying the values and providing a framework that contribute to an antiracist identity and orients them toward learning and antiracism action

(2) reflecting upon and naming the sacred texts and common resources that may further their antiracist work, study and action,

(3) reviewing a model that enables congregations to explore how antiracism might be a part of their vision and mission,

(4) studying a model that includes a framework for vigilance by reflecting on how work is done in four key quadrants: Educate, Celebrate, Agitate and Evaluate

**Workshop Description (*printed Conference Program*):**

The workshop is intended to support leadership from communities of faith by drawing upon the values and faith stance that give voice and power to remaining vigilant in antiracism work. Workshop participants will be provided a framework for engaging congregational participation and ownership in creating an antiracist identity.

**Workshop Expanded Description**

* The presenters from Cherokee Park United Church will utilize the resources of the Christian tradition (text and worship) in identifying the values and providing a framework for an antiracist identity, learning and work.
* Participants from other faith traditions will be invited to reflect upon and name the sacred texts and common resources that might further their antiracist work.
* Presenters will share a model that enables congregations to explore how antiracism might be a part of their vision and mission.
* The model includes a framework for vigilance by reflecting on how work is done in four key quadrants: Educate, Celebrate, Agitate and Evaluate.
* The presenters will share specific ways in which antiracism has become a part of the vision/mission of their church and specific ways the four quadrants have been implemented.
* Participants will be invited into small groups where they will have an opportunity to reflect on and explore how the model might be utilized in their faith context.

Workshop Organization:

Welcome and Introductions – 5 minutes

Participant Introductions (name, affiliation, brief statement of need from the workshop – 20 seconds)

Overview of the workshop – 5 minutes

Logistics: Evaluation form, website resources, handouts, contact information, right of use of the materials

Time allocation: (1) 20 min. (2) 20 min. (3) 25 min. (4) 10 min. (5) 5 min.

1. Values Clarification – Founding beliefs, assumptions, principles of faith traditions that anchor social justice/antiracism work – scriptural foundations and other foundations (e.g., humanism)

*(Presentation followed by small group work reflecting on particular community context)*

2. Core sociological principles and assumptions underlying antiracism transformation: understanding, knowledge, commitment, and tasks:

* Becoming a Multicultural, Antiracism Church,
* Hidden Challenges and Obstacles to Becoming a Multicultural, Antiracist Church: White Racial Frame, Reconciliation, Universalism
* What Vigilance Requires of Us: Repair the Broken Walls – Jennifer Harvey on *Reconciliation and Reparations*

*(Presentation followed by small group work reflecting on particular community context)*

3. Embodiment of the process toward becoming a multicultural, antiracist church: Educate, Agitate,

Celebrate, Evaluate - Cherokee Park United Church

*(Two small group segments focusing on two aspects of the model – ten minutes each).*

4. Questions and Answers

5. Evaluation