

A photograph of a large, multi-story stone building with classical architectural features. The words "UNITED METHODIST BUILDING" are carved into the upper part of the facade. In the foreground, a dark stone sign with a light-colored panel in the center displays the words "BLACK LIVES MATTER" in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The sign is flanked by small potted plants. The building's entrance has a wooden double door under an arched window. The scene is captured in bright daylight, with shadows cast on the building's surface.

UNITED METHODIST
BUILDING

THE CHURCH FACING RACISM

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Most of the time, people who see things differently don't take the time to talk to each other, much less work together. The increased understanding of community concerns & new community contacts developed through conversation results in increased action and collaboration.

AN EIGHT-SESSION DIALOGUE

Each group of about 10 - 12 of a diverse group of stakeholders (5-6 from each congregation) including, youth, law enforcement, community organizations, community leaders, faith leaders, and other interested citizens. The groups will meet separately for six sessions as briefly described below:

Affinity Group Track,

(recommended for congregations just starting to discuss race)

Session 1: Making personal and group connections on race

Session 2: Preparing ourselves for mixed-group dialogue

Conversation Track

Session 1 - Making Connections

What is your story? What is your view?

Session 2 - Ethnic Backgrounds and Racism

How does our background affect the way we relate to each other and to the community?

Session 3 - Our Unequal Nation

What is happening in our country and how do we define progress?

Session 4 - Why do Inequities Exist

What gaps exist locally? Why is this happening and how can we take action?

Session 5 - Looking at Our Community

How do we address racism in our community?

Session 6 - Moving to Action

What steps will we take to generate positive, sustainable change?

To register, please email beth.potter@flumc.org

(Content inspired by Everyday Democracy)
