

Racial Awareness and Mindfulness 2017: A Mini-Festival of Arts, Awareness, and Healing



Last October, the first ever Racial Awareness Festival took place at Westminster Presbyterian Church in DC. The event was so successful that it will be back this year! This year's festival will expand on last year's offerings and is hoping that, by the end of the event, churches and individuals will be more self-reflective regarding the impact of racism on their lives. This year's Festival is set to take place on Saturday, October 21, 2017, from 10am to 5pm, again at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW, Washington DC 20024

The festival will offer perspectives from the arts and media, and workshop facilitators to help people engage with the reality of racism in a new way. There will be music, intergenerational engagement, Interplay's "Changing the Race Dance", drumming, Emotional Emancipation circles for African-Americans and Interplay's "Waking Up White" for whites. Organizers hope that festival attendees will be inspired to join anti-racism organizations, have their churches partner with another across the racial divide and continue to engage with participants they met at the festival throughout the year.

The festival's lead organizer is Therese Taylor-Stinson, last year's National Capital Presbytery Moderator, and has enlisted support from Amidon-Bowen Elementary School, Black Presbyterians United, Faith in Public Life, NEXT Church, the Office of Public Witness, Iona DC, NCP's Spiritual Formation Team, Spiritual Directors of Color Network, Ltd., Westminster PC [DC], as well as a grant from the Mission Coordination Committee of the National Capital Presbytery and its Urban Ministry Team.



This event is in coordination with the Presbytery's commitment to bear public witness to the love, truth, and justice of God in Jesus Christ specifically in the area of racism and reconciliation. The hope is that this event will continue for years into the future and that the Presbytery's Taskforce on Confronting Racism will be able to inform and learn from this festival.

For more information on the festival contact Therese at taylorstinton@earthlink.net check out the following website: <http://www.nationalcapitalmission.org/racism-reconciliation>, and register on Eventbrite: www.racialawarenessfestival.Eventbrite.com