



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEW YORK CONFERENCE Southeastern Region

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Metropolitan Association
Suffolk Association

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UCC to Host Dialogue on Race and Religion

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Join in a community forum on Race and Religion on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 7 pm at Congregational Church of Manhasset, 1845 Northern Blvd., Manhasset, NY 11030.

Though recent media coverage has described the United Church of Christ in narrow and distorted ways, our faith tradition honors and appreciates the ministry of the Rev. Jeremiah Wright and Trinity United Church of Christ. Called to re-present the voice of the Still Speaking God, our denomination has a long history proclaiming a vital message on justice, reconciliation, and inclusion, transformative words that are hard to articulate and even more difficult to hear. See our full-page message in Wednesday, April 2's *New York Times*.

A second message will appear in "U.S.A. Today" in the days to come, inviting our nation to join our congregations in a sacred and absolutely necessary conversation on race.

A new chapter locally in our church's dialogue on race and religion will begin on Wednesday, April 16 at the Congregational Church of Manhasset, 1845 Northern Blvd., Manhasset, NY 11030. We are undertaking a dialogue on race and religion. The conversation will run from 7 to 9 pm. (A reception will precede the event, beginning at 6:15 pm.)

Lest we ask of others what we are not expecting of ourselves, the UCC's NY Conference of 280 congregations and the New York City region's Metropolitan Association of 84 congregations are organizing this opportunity for UCC members to listen to each other's various experiences and opinions. This conversation will also create greater appreciation for what it means to be the United Church together, as we strive to live out our biblical charge: "That all may be one!"

This event is also open to others as well-- people from other churches, people of other faiths, people of no faith, and representatives of the media. In UCC congregations we say: "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome among us."

For more information on UCC responses to media attention to Rev. Wright and Trinity United Church of Christ, refer to resources "On race and religion" posted at www.uccmetrosuffolk.org and www.uccny.org.

Ms. Louise Manigault is directing media inquiries to appropriate resources and/or UCC leaders. She can be reached at uccnymetro@aol.com; 718.898.9210 or 718.640.7092.

As we have been reminded by Easter and the prophetic challenges and important work being laid before our church: "Never place a period where God has placed a comma." ---END---