

## **Advocates for Racial Justice**

### **Educational Trips and Engagements:**

- 2019 Alabama trip – 43 members and friends.
- Organized trips focused on Black history and connecting with the African American community.
- Sponsored local field trips to history museums, art museums, and theater productions to broaden understanding of Black lives.

### **Support for Local Organizations:**

- Collected books during October 2025 for the Fort Wayne Urban League's Banned Book Campaign.
- For the past six years the group has donated food and served "Soup Sunday" to the congregation as a fundraiser for the A. Philip Randolph Institute scholarship fund that is named after a former UUCFW member who was influential in the Black community for many years.
- Conducted fundraisers to support community efforts including a new urban grocery store.
- Engaged in personal volunteer efforts to support community organizations in activities such as neighborhood cleanups.
- Collected and wrapped toys for the MLK Club's annual Santa on Tour during the holiday season.
- Sponsored, volunteered, and participated in the annual YWCA 5K Race Against Racism for three years.
- Advocates for Racial Justice members have joined local groups to represent our congregation and to bring back information and action items. We are represented in NAACP, A. Philip Randolph Institute, MLK Club, and Urban League.
- We allow the APRI to meet monthly in our building at no cost.

### **Voter Registration and Outreach:**

- Worked on voter registration drives with other local organizations to encourage voting among underrepresented groups.
- Secured a UUA grant to fund a social media campaign aimed at encouraging young Black voters.

### **Guest Speakers, Author Events and Internal Conversations:**

- Participated in the national Race Card Project through the Urban League's justice program. Cards were submitted for the project and posted in the social hall for discussion.
- Invited numerous BIPOC community members to speak during or after services.
- Hosted local Black authors who shared their books and personal stories in small group book discussions.
- Conducted several book chats on titles associated with racial justice.
- Regularly offered opportunities to collectively view films and video clips with discussion following.

#### Community and National Advocacy:

- During COVID, individuals participated in the George Floyd protests and other important national, state, and local actions.
- Staffed tables at events such as MLK Unity Day, reaching out to marginalized communities.

#### Friends First Initiative:

- We are in our fourth year partnering with the Fort Wayne A. Philip Randolph Institute on an original, collaborative project we named “Friends First.” This multiracial group meets monthly to foster personal connections across racial lines. Participants gather at the meetinghouse, sharing meals, stories, hopes, and dreams, and working toward deeper mutual understanding. Currently, the Friends First email list includes 27 members. As a predominantly white congregation, we depend on our local BIPOC organizations to help us invite people of color to participate.

#### Good Trouble Initiative:

- Began activities in 2024 as a “Good Trouble” congregation, including a postcard-writing campaign to encourage voting which was led by a new member.
- Collaborated with other community groups in July 2025 for the “Good Trouble Lives On- Honoring John Lewis” rally.

#### International Participation and Hosting:

- In 2023 seven members of UUCFW participated in a South African trip, “In the Steps of Desmond Tutu,” which led to hosting South African drummers and clergy on their 2024 “Unity and Healing Tour.”
- UUCFW hosted an opening reception, worship service, carry-in dinner, and a fall-themed farewell event, all supported by congregation-wide donations. APRI partnered with us by funding the catered opening reception and by connecting the drummers to many influential Black community members.
- Two UUCFW families hosted drummers in their homes for the duration of their stay in Fort Wayne.