

Learning How to Animate Racial Justice Workshops

October 20, 2018

Workshop Animators:



Pictured: Kim Uyede-Kai, Néstor Medina, Jonathan Schmidt, Adele Halliday, Esther Wesley, Wenh-In Ng

The Participants

The workshop will draw on our shared experiences, wisdom, questions, and gifts.

Kim Uyede-Kai has a lifetime of lived racialized experience and dismantling of her own intergenerational internalized racism. One of the early members of the CEARN Steering Committee, she resources a diversity of United Church communities of faith, including ethnic minority and Indigenous congregations, and facilitates workshops with spiritual practice components and an anti-racist lens. Kim edited “Ending Racial Harassment: Creating Healthy Congregations”, a handbook animating a portion of The United Church of Canada’s Anti-Racism Policy Statement. With training in conflict management and restorative practices, she is also a Reiki energy healing practitioner.

Néstor Medina is married to Samia Saad. He is a Guatemalan-Canadian scholar. Received his PhD from ST. Michael’s College, U of T. He was a recipient of the Louisville First Book Grant for Minority Scholars (2014), Néstor enjoys working with churches helping carry out workshops in theology and culture. More recently he has been working on decolonial thinking and the doctrine of discovery and their implication for talking about racism. He is the author of *On the Doctrine of Discovery* (CCC-2017) and his book *Christianity, Empire and the Spirit* has just been released. He also likes foods from different cultural traditions.

Jonathan Schmidt is the Canadian Council of Churches Associate Secretary, Intercultural Leadership and Learning; Justice and Peace. He brings to the work gifts as a facilitator and designer of experiential adult learning, and many years of experience in ecumenical settings. His areas of expertise include intercultural ministry, justice, anti-racism and privilege, missiology, and overseas cross-cultural travel and relationship. A White Canadian, he has lived in Edmonton, Vancouver, Toronto, Kitchener (Ontario), El Salvador, Cleveland, Albuquerque (New Mexico) and Scarborough. Ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, he has served in Parish, Campus, and Ecumenical Ministries. Jonathan is married to Alice Schuda and has two teenage children, Martin and Maya.

Adele Halliday works at the national office of The United Church of Canada as the Team Leader for Discipleship and Witness. She is lead staff for work related to racial justice, intercultural ministries, and disabilities. She helped to envision CEARN into inception after the 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism. Over the course of several years, she has developed programs and policies related to racial justice and intercultural ministries, and has an in-depth background in anti-racism education and intercultural engagement.

Esther Wesley is the coordinator of the Anglican Church of Canada's healing and reconciliation fund, and staffs the Anti-Racism education/training work. Her work as coordinator of the healing fund takes her across the country including the Arctic. She has been involved with anti-racism education and awareness work for many years and one of the original members of CEARN. Esther comes from one of the groups of people who live under the legally mandated institutionalized racism – the Indigenous peoples of Canada.

Wenh-In Ng A member of the CEARN steering committee since the early 2000's, the Rev Dr. Greer Anne Wenh-In Ng developed courses on anti-racism education at Emmanuel College, Victoria University in the University of Toronto prior to her retirement there, and edited *That All May be One: A Resource for Educating toward Racial Justice* (2004) for The United Church of Canada before spending a year as its Interim General Council Minister, Racial Justice.