**Virtual UU Heritage Trip to Tulsa, OK – Extension Activities**

Extend the group’s experience after completing the virtual trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Before the “trip,” consider the preparation each would require on your part, the likely days/times and the span of time you could allocate to them, contacts in your congregation or community from whom to seek help, etc. During the Tulsa trip’s “ride home,” offer the group one or more of these ideas for further engagement and action.

In this document:

* Extension Activity One: Going Deeper with Social Media
* Extension Activity Two: Going Local with Our History

**Extension Activity One: Going Deeper with Social Media**

Objectives:

* Participants imagine themselves in 1921 Tulsa and their response to the Massacre.
* Participants use familiar-to-them contemporary media tools to engage more deeply.

The media can be a powerful tool to share information and to shape opinion. We’ve seen how in 1921 Richard Lloyd Jones used his media platform, *The Tulsa Tribune*, to incite racist violence. We’ve also seen, in recent years, how media can be used by marginalized people to claim a voice and bring attention to stories that have been long-ignored. Social media, especially, has been a tool for political groups to organize and share information. For example, the Black Lives Matter movement sparked from a social media post and hashtag by three Black queer women, Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi.

**Basic Activity.** Imagine that you are in 1921 Tulsa, with today’s social media tools (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tiktok …) . In pairs or small groups, develop a social media post to describe what is happening, what you are witnessing or experiencing.

**Longer Activity.** Develop a social media campaign (3-5 posts, over time or across platforms) that describe what is happening. In preparing your posts, some things to consider are:

* Who is your audience?
* What is your message?
* What is important about this issue or event?
* What do you want people to do, or know, or feel?

**Extension Activity Two: Going Local with Our UU History**

Objectives:

* Participants engage with the history of your local community.
* Participants discover and consider what role(s) our faith or our UU faith ancestors may have played in that history, whether positive, negative, or mixed.
* (Optional) Participants engage with Unitarian Universalist accountability from ethical, theological, and political perspectives.

The virtual heritage trip to Tulsa explored different roles of Unitarian Universalist faith ancestors and of UUs in the present day in shaping or responding to local history. Unitarian Universalists in Tulsa have begun the work to better understand that local history, including the roles our Unitarian faith ancestors may have played. They have also played a role in bringing the 1921 Massacre to light and initiating local action for reparations.

What hidden history might we find in our own community? Develop a report or presentation that describes an event from the past where UUs engaged with the local community (neighborhood, municipality, or region) or with a local expression of a national/global issue.

Embrace the complications you may find. Be ready to engage with some stories that reflect poorly on our faith ancestors as well as stories that highlight a positive local impact of Unitarianism, Universalism, or UUism.

Encourage youth to share what they learn in a creative format. They might develop a presentation using online tools such as PowerPoint, Prezi, and Zine. They could use song, collage, photo collection, or another mode of creative expression to share their discoveries with a wider group, for example, as part of a worship service or through an article on the congregation’s website.

Encourage youth to raise, if not answer, questions about our accountability as Unitarian Universalists for past harms. Groups with adults and older youth can take this part of the project deeper: What endures and what transforms as UUism matures? How does UUism as a faith equip us for accountability? How does our commitment to justice include reckoning with the past as well as actively working to improve the present?

Tips for Getting Started

* Visit your congregation’s (or other local UU congregations’) archives or other historical records. Hint: Board meeting minutes from the past can be an invaluable source about what was on congregants’ minds and hearts at a particular time.
* If your congregation doesn’t have an archive, consider other ways that you store history: plaques on the wall, photo gallery or album, the contents of old bookshelves, etc.
* Talk to long-time members of your congregation (or neighboring UU congregations). They or their families may have personal archives to share that can shed light on congregational events of the past, as well as stories to tell.
* Visit your local library to check out their local archives. Talk to a librarian who may be able to shed some light on local history. They may know about local past events that affected the community; from there, you can hunt for a UU connection.