

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY 2017 SYLLABUS

### “Unitarian Universalist History, Theology - and Race”

*Presenter: Rev. Natalie M. Fenimore*

#### **Description:**

While Unitarian Universalism aspires to be a welcoming, theologically diverse, multicultural anti-racist and anti-oppressive faith community; it developed in the United States as a liberal religious movement within the larger culture’s bias and racism.

Music leaders are called to serve congregations where issues of race, racism, and privilege are still “live” and painful conversations. Music leaders need to engage in reflection and discussion on these issues - and be familiar with how Unitarian Universalist history and theology stand in relation to issues of race.

#### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Pre- and post-conference assignments should be emailed to the instructor ([NFenimore@uucsr.org](mailto:NFenimore@uucsr.org)) and cc’d the the Professional Development Programs Manager ([pkahn@uua.org](mailto:pkahn@uua.org))

#### **Pre-Conference Assignments – due to instructor July 10, 2017**

##### Reading:

1. Mark D. Morrison- Reed, “Black Pioneers in a White Denomination”. Skinner House, 1994.
2. David E. Baumbaugh. “Unitarian Universalism: A Narrative History”. Meadville Lombard Press, 2001.

Reference: Leslie Takahashi-Morris, Roush, Spencer, “The Arc of the Universe is Long: Unitarian Universalists, Anti-Racism and the Journey from Calvary”. Skinner House, 2009.

##### Reflection Paper:

Write 750 – 1000 words (double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point) reflecting on each of the following:

- a. What did you know about race, racism, privilege in Unitarian Universalism before the reading?
- b. What was the most important/meaningful/useful information from the reading?
- c. What are the issues of race, racism, and privilege in your congregation? In your music program?

**Post-Conference Assignment – due to instructor by October 15, 2017**

Paper of 1500-2000 words (3 or 4 pages)

Topic (Choose 1):

1. How have issues of race, racism and privilege been discussed and/or avoided in your congregation over the life of the congregation?
2. Reflect on issues of race, racism and privilege in a particular period in the history of Unitarian Universalism of your choosing.
3. How do you feel equipped to discuss issues of race, racism, and privilege as a Music Leader? Do you have a particular role to play? How do you relate to members of color, to cultural diversity, to interactions between members or staff or ministers that have a basis in race, racism or privilege issues?

**Instructor will submit a course evaluation form to each participant (cc [pkahn@uua.org](mailto:pkahn@uua.org)) by December 1, 2017.**