

sitting president to build a wall across the U.S. and Mexico escalate. UCC pastors are also answering the call to be prophetically relevant and take their bodies to the streets in counter protest against white supremacists.

A Call to Action: Christian Clergy Protest Against Hate

On Saturday, August 12, 2017 over 300 clergy from around the country traveled to Charlottesville, VA in support of local pastors prepared to resist racism and hate. A Unite the Right rally, which included ALT-Right supporters and white nationalists came to Charlottesville angered at the State's decision to remove a confederate statue of Robert E. Lee. They also came with the intent to recruit, disrupt, and use violence against people in opposition to their messages of hate and racism.

Direct action is a model the UCC is encouraging its congregations to engage and resist messages and actions of hatred, intolerance, and violence.

Brittany Caine-Conley, a UCC minister in discernment, and Rev. Seth Wispelway, a UCC pastor, mobilized more than 80 local clergy and sent out a national call for 1,000 clergy to join in solidarity, receive anti-violence training, and march together against the Unite the Right supporters. Prior to August 12, their group [Congregate Charlottesville](#), helped local clergy and community organizers participate in civil disobedience and nonviolence training.

Rev. Traci Blackmon, UCC Executive Minister of Justice and Local Church Ministries, led the Saturday morning prayer service. UCC pastors and clergy from other denominational and faith traditions departed the church building linked arm to arm wearing their vestments, praying and singing hymns. Direct action is a model the UCC is encouraging its congregations to engage and resist messages and actions of hatred, intolerance, and violence.

The UCC is committed to racial justice. The foundation of our work rests on the policy statements made during General Synod 23. An addendum was added to the 1993 Pronouncement calling the UCC to become a Multiracial Church. The addendum calls the UCC to also become an "Anti-Racist" denomination. In doing so, we encourage all UCC Conferences, Associations, and local churches to adopt anti-racism mandates including policy that encourages anti-racism programs for all UCC staff and volunteers.

Commit to the Journey to End Racism

Sacred conversations alone will not end racism. Pastoral leaders, congregations, and individuals have access to 4 Phases that are six-to-eight weeks in length of interactive curriculum. Each week is inclusive of personal stories, diverse sacred music, beautiful artwork, and culturally inclusive biblical narratives. Participants work through