

## **MUCC Racial Justice Group – Annual Report 2022**

Racial Justice Ministries encompasses our efforts to bring awareness, make a difference, and inspire change.

We believe in the equality of all peoples.

### **Mission Statement:**

*We at McFarland UCC recognize the ongoing acts of injustice against people of color, and we stand in support of those who bear the burden of inequity in our nation. We believe in our interconnectedness as human beings, and we pledge to work together as a congregation to educate ourselves and to take action to improve the lives of those who have been oppressed. Psalm 82:3 (New International Version) exhorts us to “Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.” As we begin to understand the extent of racial injustices in our nation, we are called to work toward a more just and equitable future for all of God’s people.*

Below are the activities we’ve been engaged in during 2022.

### **“Why Race Matters” PBS series**

Beginning in February, we held Zoom sessions over seven weeks to view and discuss episodes of the “Why Race Matters” series on PBS. These episodes included topics on Mental Health, Civic Engagements, School-to-Prison Pipeline, Black Farming and Land Ownership, Maternal Health and Birth Equity, Black Artists and Appropriation, and Women and Barriers After Incarceration.

### **Personal Essentials drive for Nehemiah Community Development**

In the past, a number of church members and friends participated in the Nehemiah “Black History for a New Day” online course. Continuing our connection with Nehemiah in support of racial justice, we organized a drive during the month of April to collect essential items for Madison communities in need, through the Nehemiah Community Development organization. Donations were collected in a donation box at church and delivered to the Fountain of Life Church in Madison.

### **Get Out the Vote Postcard Campaign**

In September, we partnered with Reclaim Our Vote, a campaign of the Center for Common Ground, to empower under-represented voters to fully participate in elections by sending postcards to a list provided to us by Reclaim Our Vote. We held postcard-writing sessions after church on several successive Sundays and mailed a total of 120 postcards to people in Florida who were registered to vote but hadn’t voted in the past couple of election cycles.

### **MUCC Inclusive Arts group**

We are committed to assessing our environment to create an inclusive, welcoming space. We do this by ensuring our artwork, printed materials and toys create spaces in which all people feel safe and valued, and see themselves represented throughout our building. We believe this is an outreach, which represents the belief of our congregation, where we accept, love, honor and cherish persons of all races.