

Beloved Conversations VIRTUAL

for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color
GATHERING OUR SELVES

for White People
UN/LEARNING FOR LIBERATION

Beloved Conversations—the signature offering of The Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard Theological School—is a program for Unitarian Universalists seeking to embody racial justice as a spiritual practice. In Beloved Conversations, we are here to heal the impact of racism on our lives, in order to get free together.

WITHIN : Phase 1

Launched Fall 2020, open to all

The first phase of our program focuses on the internal spiritual work and individual un/learning that each of us needs to do as we engage in explorations of race and our work for racial justice. This learning is different for white folks and for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and we offer two separate programs to meet those needs:

- Gathering Our Selves for BIPOC participants
- Un/Learning for Liberation for white participants

Both Within programs involve opportunities for individual, self-paced learning, relationship building in small groups, and large group worship and fellowship. Our Fall and Spring Terms contain different content- participants can sign up for one or both and may begin in Spring or Fall. Within is open to any adult who wants to join, regardless of connection to or participation in a Unitarian Universalist congregation. Registration for the Fall Term opens on June 22, 2022 and closes on August 26, 2022. The Fall Term will begin on September 12, 2022.

WITHIN discount coupon

Register early and save!

Register during GA and get 20% off! Use code **BCVFALL22GA** (through 6/26)

Early Bird Registration and get 10% off! Use code **FALL22BCVEB** (6/27 through 8/12)

AMONG : Phase 2

Launched Fall 2021, for congregations whose members have participated in Within

In this second phase of our program, we take our learnings from Within and focus them on institutional change in our congregations. In Among, participants work with a dedicated coach and a core group of up to 20 Within alums from their congregation to:

- better understand the ways dominant white culture is woven into the congregation's systems
- explore possibilities for change in up to two chosen areas of congregational life
- learn from examples of others who have made bold changes
- center the spiritual needs and voices of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color
- create a plan for change that fits the congregation and context

We are excited to work with congregations who are looking to transform! With that aim in mind, congregations applying to the program must have a demonstrated commitment to anti-racism, a majority of lay and professional leadership who have taken at least one term of Within, and can point to ways their congregation has been accepting of change.

We are not currently accepting new applications for Among for 2022/2023. We anticipate reopening the application process for the 2023/2024 church year and look forward to welcoming new congregations into the program at that time.

BEYOND : Phase 3

COMING SOON! for congregations who have participated in Among

The third phase of our program will focus on the justice work our congregations engage with their local communities, whether that work be with interfaith partners, community organizations, or legislative/community advocacy and witness. How can our congregations be accountable partners, community resources, and co-conspirators for racial justice and collective liberation? Beyond is the learning community where we will explore answers and try new collective ways of being and doing, together.

WITHIN+ : Exploration Stations

COMING SOON! for individuals who have completed at least one term of Within

Finished with both terms of Within and ready for more? Join one of these play stations for your soul and engage in deep and creative ways, focused on one topic, as it intersects with issues of race and racism. Each Station will:

- Serve Faith Development
- Include Fun
- Be a space for spiritual growth, deepening, and practice
- Address multiple learning/gleaning styles
- Feel flexible/ emergent
- Encourage celebration
- Be a space for the broken-hearted
- Focus on personal work

We will be adding Exploration Stations as they are developed over time. Keep an eye out for the first ones and plan to join us to continue your learning and connection to the Beloved Conversations community!

Prices and additional information about all of our programs are available on our website at www.meadville.edu/beloved or by emailing BelovedConversations@meadville.edu. In recognition of our interconnectedness, opportunities to offer and receive scholarships are available without limitations.

Beloved Conversations FAMILY

Launching Fall 2022

Created to meet the needs of Black, Indigenous, and other Families of Color and multiracial families, Beloved Conversations Family has both in-person and virtual components available in the Fall of 2022.

- The in-person curriculum, for use by congregations, is designed to support the spiritual, social, and faith formation and connection needs of BIPOC and multiracial families (including kids and youth!). As a prerequisite to offering this curriculum, UU congregations agree to support the program's objectives with deep listening and learning at the leadership level—and funding to support initiatives driven by the families who participate.
- Beloved Conversations Family will also offer a virtual component, accessible to BC Virtual Within participants. Special Learning Pods for Black, Indigenous, and other Parents and Caregivers of Color, as well as separate Learning Pods for white parents and caregivers in multiracial families, will create deep connections and engagement to support online participants by focusing on building joyful community and inspiring faithful living. Parents and caregivers will also be equipped to take the learning home, with activities and discussion prompts to share with the whole family, and in daily life.

"Thank you, writers and facilitators. I've found myself again by working through this curriculum while being supported by my pod. It is an excellent program and I'm really grateful for the chance to work through probing lessons as well as the resources you have provided." —Chirinjev P.

"Here again another great lesson. I've been doing a lot of reflection about who I've become and what I have given up to function in a white world. Thank you for providing the vehicle to touch that part of my soul, that part of my memory." —Sarah G.

More than 2,500 people from all over the U.S., Canada, and the world have participated in Beloved Conversations Virtual so far. In *Gathering Our Selves*, BIPOC UUs are building community and focusing on their spiritual needs. In *Un/Learning for Liberation*, white UUs are learning the spiritual skills necessary for eradicating white supremacy culture in themselves and in our wider systems. And in *Among*, congregational leaders are identifying ways that the systems and cultures of their congregations do not align with our UU values and are working to transform them. It's collective liberation in action!