

Beloved Conversations VIRTUAL

Join us for Beloved Conversations Virtual!

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.

Phases

Beloved Conversations Virtual will be released in three phases:

- WITHIN (the individual, personal work we each need to do), launched in Fall 2020
- AMONG (the institutional, systemic change needed in our congregations), planned launch in Fall 2021
- BEYOND (the work outside our congregations, with our local communities), planned launch in Fall 2022

The first phase "Within" focuses on the internal work that each of us needs to do, as we engage personal exploration of race and our work for racial justice. This work is different for white folks and for Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and other racially targeted groups (BIPOC+)* and "Within" phase will be done entirely in race-based caucuses/courses.

**We recognize that the imperfect and complex ways we talk about our racial identities is how "racism" continues to cause spiritual harm. We hope Beloved Conversations to be a mediating space of guidance, support, and reconciliation for those who experience the sting of racism in their everyday lives. Historically, that list refers to those who have experienced social and structural oppression: African Americans/Blacks, Caribbean people, Asian/ Pacific*

Islanders, Middle Easterners, Latin Americans/Latinx, Indigenous peoples across the Americas, and mixed-race people.

An invitation to BIPOC+ to the *Gathering Our Selves* course

BIPOC+ work has been a neglected conversation, as much anti-racism work has been focused on the learning needs of white folks. For those of us who identify as BIPOC+, we recognize the need to understand the impact of racism in our lives— particularly our spiritual lives—and the choices we have made to survive.

In this curriculum, we will look at issues such as how and why Unitarian Universalist values matter to us, how race has shaped our personal and communal lives, the dynamics of why and how we stay in the faith, and what a theology for BIPOC+ in a white-dominated society might look like.

Gathering Our Selves will run in two cohorts: one for people who have completed the Fall Term and one for those who are new to the program in the Spring. The two cohorts will have opportunities to come together for worship and connection.

An invitation to white folks to the *Un/Learning for Liberation* course

Wherever we white folks are on the journey toward collective liberation—whether you are just waking up to systemic racial injustice or your heart has been breaking for a long

time—you are invited to join us for Un/Learning for Liberation. We will explore within ourselves as individual white people, within our family and community systems, and within the system of whiteness, which has impacted and limited our ability to truly be present with and connected to ourselves and our siblings of color. But we get to choose to be and do differently. Beginning within ourselves.

This is a space for justice-making and spiritual formation, a place where we honor complexity, nuance, and grace. We will bear witness to one another as we engage a process of introspection, honest reflection, and challenge what we always thought we knew or were too afraid or embarrassed to ask. We will learn together about how this system has impacted us and dis-connected us from ourselves and our BIPOC+ kin and how it was implanted in us without our consent. And we will unlearn some of our deeply ingrained habits of perception, thought, and behavior, while practicing spiritual skills for humility, resistance, and solidarity.

Un/Learning for Liberation will run in one cohort, regardless of folks' previous participation in the program. Content will be different in Spring than in the Fall Term.

How to register

If you are registering and paying for yourself, there are three steps to register

1. Go to meadville.edu/beloved to read more about the program. In the *Beloved Conversations Virtual* section of our website, you can find:
 - [Overview](#)
 - [Phases, Learning Goals & Outcomes](#)
 - [Centering the Spiritual Needs of BIPOC+](#)
 - [Program Structure & Pricing](#)
 - [Important Dates for BCV Spring 2021](#)
 - [Registration Details](#)
 - [FAQ](#)

When you have all of the information you need, click the link to our registration page. The link will be available only during the registration period.

2. The link will take you to the first sign-up step at our online learning site called Teachable. Choose one of the courses

that aligns with your racial identity to enroll in—*Gathering Our Selves I* or *II* for BIPOC+, or *Un/Learning for Liberation* for white folks. You will be prompted to enter your name and email address and pay with a credit card and/or coupon code. At checkout, under the boxes for your email address and name, check the little box to opt-in for receiving instructional emails. This will ensure you receive important notifications and communications from us.

3. Once you register and pay at Teachable, you will be directed to a Google Form we will use to collect the rest of the information we need from you. You are not considered registered and enrolled in this program until you have completed this Google Form.

IMPORTANT: Please enter the same email address for registration at Teachable and Google Form. This will prevent us from confusing you as two individuals.

If you are interested in paying for a group of people together

Please contact belovedconversations@meadville.edu for instructions. As a reminder, everyone must still register individually for the course on our curriculum website and fill out the google form that follows, even if they are not paying for themselves as an individual.

Questions?

Please check out our website at

meadville.edu/beloved

or contact us at

BelovedConversations@meadville.edu

