

INVITATION: Reckoning with Racist Legacy Oregon

Dear Faith-Leader Friend,

The organizers of The Common Table of Oregon would like to invite you into a deliberate process of dismantling racism inside your faith community or institution and out in the public square. We recognize some of you might already be engaged in similar work. But for those who want to grapple with Oregon's racist legacy alongside other faith communities throughout our state, this nine-month journey (broken into three trimesters from September 2020 to May 2021) will be a unique opportunity to learn, to listen, and to engage. Schedule-wise, you would be meeting with other faith leaders online twice a month (1.5 hours each meeting), with dates for the first "trimester" on the following Tuesdays, each from 6:30–8:00pm: September 15, September 29, October 13, October 27, and November 10.

Throughout this journey, you can expect:

1. **LEARNING:** We will learn more about Oregon's legacy of racism, and how this history continues as a tradition of systemic silencing and violence toward people of color.
1. **LISTENING:** We will center the voices and stories of Black, Brown, Asian, Indigenous, and other communities of color as we build bridges of reciprocity, dismantling those patterns within our institutions that keep us asleep, silent, and perpetuating subtle and blatant forms of racism.
1. **ENGAGING:** We will work alongside other faith communities and leaders, creating cohort "containers" for mutual accountability and action as we discern what it means to dismantle racism in our local context.

We know that some faith leaders are recognized as clergy, but many others are not. Our only requirement is that you bring along three other people from your faith community who are committed to this work. Please RSVP by emailing Rev. Michael Ellick at mellick@emoregon.org. Note that we'll be providing a more thorough orientation (along with space for questions and answers) at our first meeting on Tuesday, September 15, but please reach out if you have questions that cannot wait, or check out <https://www.commonableoregon.org> to learn more about The Common Table of Oregon.

In faith,

Design Team for the Common Table of Oregon,

Cherice Bock
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