What a faith [UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM]
and a church within that faith [THE UU CHURCH OF GREENSBORO]
and people of that faith in that church have been doing to address institutional racism
UUs have a long history of standing up for social justice, with a legacy of:

DEEDS, NOT CREEDS
You might have heard of some Unitarians, like:

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)
Naturalist, Abolitionist
Or some Universalists, like:

Clara Barton (1821-1912)
Founder, American Red Cross
“Everyone, regardless of what side they are on, deserves care”
And even a Unitarian Universalist, like:

Robert Fulgham (1937- )
Minister, author
But whether Unitarian or Universalist, or Unitarian Universalist, ours is a faith of

DEEDS, NOT

CREEDS...

Witness:

Sunday, July 28, 2007
On Sunday, July 27, 2008, two people were killed and seven others were injured when a gunman opened fire inside the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. It was later disclosed that the shooter had left a letter in his car, describing his “hatred of the liberal movement...Liberals in general, as well as gays.” This UU church was well known in the community for its support of equal rights for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community, women, and people of color.

In response to this tragedy, the “Standing on the Side of Love” campaign was born, with the goal of harnessing love’s power to challenge exclusion, oppression, and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, race, religion, or any other identity.
Carrying that legacy forward, in July 2010, twenty-nine Unitarian Universalists—including eight ministers—were arrested in Phoenix, AZ, for acts of civil disobedience, protesting Arizona’s strict anti-immigration practices.
While continuing to stand up for immigrants’ rights (and the rights of other marginalized populations), in the coming years, it became clear that our country was facing issues larger than immigration policy, noting a strong change in race-relations in our country.

And in June 2015, The General Assembly of the UUA passed an “Action of Immediate Witness” to support “Black Lives Matter.”
The following year, the 2016 UUA General Assembly devoted much of its conference to addressing racial in/justice:

**Black Lives of UUs Track**

BLUU TRACK: BLACK LIVES CONVENING AND EXPLICITLY BLACK SPACES

#233 1:15pm – 2:30pm  Union Station Ballroom B

Black Lives of UU

Unitarian Universalists helped organize the Movement for Black Lives Convening, a three-day conference in Cleveland last July that brought 1200 black people together to build, learn and heal. We will reflect on the significance of M4BL in the formation of Black Lives of UU, its impact on Unitarian Universalist participants, and the value of explicitly black spaces.

Leslie Mac  
Lena Gardner  

**Racial Justice Track**

STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE: BLACK LIVES MATTER

#254 3:00pm – 4:15pm  Union Station Ballroom B

Multicultural Growth & Witness Staff Team and Standing on the Side of Love Campaign

Join Alicia Garza, co-founder of Black Lives Matter and Caitlin Breedlove, Standing on the Side of Love Campaign Director, for a dialogue on what is needed from people of faith from liberation movements in this moment in order to resource, support and co-lead movement building.

Alicia Garza  
Caitlin Breedlove

**COMING TO THE TABLE: HEALING AMERICA’S RACIAL WOUNDS**

#424 4:45pm – 6:00pm  Union Station Ballroom C

Coming to the Table, LLC

Introduction to the “CTTT Approach” to racial justice & healing by the authors of Gather at the Table (Beacon Press). Incorporate this successful model into your congregation/community. The UUA is committed to “end racial discrimination & injustice, starting within ourselves…” We all know what’s not working. This engaging workshop will provide a vision of what’s possible.

Tom DeWolf  
Sharon Morgan
One of the keynote speakers was Rev. William J. Barber, of North Carolina’s “Moral Mondays” fame, who after raising his voice to a slow simmer, brought down the house in his customary way. It is a tribute to him, and to my faith, that his book, “The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement” was named as the “UU Read for 2017.”
The UUA continues to be focused on naming and addressing our racial divides, as evidenced from our latest quarterly issue of “UU World” (Winter 2016)
including an article from the UUA’s previous President, William G. Sinkford, titled “THE MYTH OF WHITE INNOCENCE: We were ready to redeem the American dream, to take our place in the revolution. What happened?”

“Picnic” by Brittney Leeanne Williams
THE ACT OF NOT SEEING: “This is how it feels a lot of the time,” says one racial justice activist, “like white folks are just walking around like everything is okay”
“THE PAST IS ALIVE AT THE WHITNEY PLANTATION: You can’t rewrite history, but you can help right many of the wrongs through education.”
The Unitarian Universalist Church of Greensboro is one of more than 1000 UU congregations in the United States. And we have been energized by the UUA’s commitment to “Black Lives Matter”

In UUCG’s Sept 2016 newsletter, the congregation’s president, Lonnie Houck, devoted his column to committing the church to confronting institutional racism

President’s September 2016 newsletter article
This last June the UUA General Assembly in Columbus OH had a focus on Social Justice and Black Lives Matter issues. Where the last couple of years, the issue of same sex marriage rapidly rose up in the national consciousness culminating with the Supreme Court decision, the issues of systemic racism in this country is becoming clearer with every incident/Killing we see in the news. The reality of injustice and Black Lives is looking like the next social justice issue whose time has come.

[inclusion of an excerpt from Kenny Wiley’s article in UU World (Winter 2015):

In this newsletter, I am highlighting just the first step: Education. To read the entire article, please refer to the Winter 2015 edition of UU World, or check into: http://www.uuworld.org/articles/5-ways-support-black-lives-matter. Over the next few months there will be opportunities across the larger Greensboro community to educate ourselves on the issues. Our church will be hosting a workshop by the Guilford Anti-Racism Alliance on Oct 4th (and again on May 2nd), thanks to the involvement in this organization of our Director of Religious Education, Cindy Dillard. Please join me with an open mind and love in our hearts in taking a first step in learning something new and difficult.
In subsequent months, UUCG has become an ally:

- Promoting REI (Racial Equity Institute) Trainings, including staff-training

- Supporting community actions:
  
  Black Lives Matter rally (July 9)  
  National Crisis of Race and Policing (July 11)

- Participating in GARA meetings, both White Caucus and Joint Caucus

- Being a host-site for GARA’s “Doing our Work” series

- Starting a conversation with UUCG’s Board about BLM and how to begin, and sustain, the conversation

- Becoming a possible host-site for an REI training

- Using social media (UUCG’s website, Facebook, etc)
“Now that we have started this conversation, what can I actually do?”

• Attend future “Doing Our Work” sessions (and bring a friend/neighbor)
• Attend an REI (Racial Equity Institute) Training
• Join GARA (Guilford Anti-Racism Alliance) and participate in their meetings and events
• Advocate in your community (neighborhood, church, school)
• Be an ally
• Participate in local and regional actions, such as HKonJ, Moral Mondays
• Use social media
• Wear a “Black Lives Matter” wristband