

Racial Justice Task Force Community events

- Thursday June 23rd 6:30-8:30 Love Corner/Church of Living God- Large Sanctuary
- Saturday 25th 1pm-3pm, IMC Urbana

Goals:

- Overarching goal: Community dialogue about Racial Disparity in Champaign County
- Providing a space for stories from community members
- Build relationships between RJTF & community
- Get input on recommendations/changes needed
- Gain Community support for RJTF work

Format:

1. Introduction:
 - a. Welcome, Overview of RJTF, how/why it was formed and why we are hosting community events, thanks to sponsors
 - b. Meeting format (describe event questions and process) & housekeeping
2. Break into small groups & describe event questions

We are going to hold our conversations in a circle format. Talking circles are a very effective way to allow people to express themselves. The symbolism of the circle, with no beginning and with nobody in a position of power, serves to encourage people to speak freely and honestly. A talking piece is passed around inviting participation by all. Whoever holds the talking piece is invited to speak, while all others listen to and support the speaker. The talking piece will come back to you, so if you feel the need to say something, just wait until it's your turn. You may pass the talking piece at any time, if you do not wish to add to the conversation.

We have set questions that we will ask, in order, in our small groups. Feel free to use the paper provided to take notes, get your thoughts together, doodle or to write something that you'd rather not say out loud in front of others. Your stories and recommendations are important to us, so we will try to capture what is said by taking our own notes, but we do ask that you write down anything you feel compelled to share with us and we'll gather all feedback together after the events.

3. Small group dialogue: Facilitator welcomes group and begins first round of questions
 - a. Who are you and why was it important for you to be here tonight?
 - b. Describe any personal experiences (you, your family, friends) that you believe are related to racial disparity in the criminal-justice system in Champaign County. What happened, how did it affect those involved, was it resolved, etc?
 - c. In your opinion, are there steps that can be taken within our justice system in Champaign County to reduce the racial disparity in it? If so, what?
 - d. In your opinion, are there steps that can be taken by others – individuals, families, neighborhoods, groups, organizations, or agencies – to reduce the racial disparity in Champaign County's criminal-justice system? If so, what?
 - e. What recommendations do you have for the task force and/or county board about how to make recommended changes actually occur?
4. Whole group sharing & next steps
 - a. Each small group will share key points from their discussion to the larger group and summarize each question on paper provided
5. Closing & gratitude for all participation