

## **Racial Equality Work in Atlanta Friends Meeting 2018**

As Friends, we feel called to act on our testimony of equality at the personal, institutional, and societal levels. We recognize that undoing racism is spiritual work and recommit ourselves to becoming a multiracial, multicultural, anti-racist spiritual home for all. Starting with a threshing session following a decision in 2017 to put up a Black Lives Matter sign, we have been increasingly aware of the need for us as Quakers to address our personal and institutional racism. Following the threshing meeting, a group has met several times to identify ways to connect groups and involve more people in addition to those already active with Quakers for Racial Equality (QRE) and Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM). Quakers for Racial Equality sponsored 1 Friend to attend the White Privilege Conference, who then offered workshops at both AFM and SAYMA. QRE also sponsored 2 Friends' participation in a weekend Undoing Racism workshop and benefitted from their sharing. QRE coordinated with Green Friends to co-host a workshop on refugees and climate change, taught a First Day School class session in the summer, and joined Social Concerns in a "get out the vote" sign-painting project. Other QRE highlights included extensive Black History displays, a joint project with Create Community 4 Decatur/ Black Lives Matter to develop a list of local Black-owned businesses, and deepening our understanding of threats to cultural survival and sovereignty for Native American nations. We continue to offer a weekly literature table related to racism. The Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting also offers a monthly Listening Ear for Concerns about Racism, supports racism workshops at AFM, and donates books on race and racism and People of Color to the AFM library. In addition, a new book discussion group focusing on reading fiction and poetry by and about People of Color meets monthly. This year, the Atlanta Friends of Color group contributed to the Kilombo School, an independent African-centered school near our area. Members of Quakers for Racial Equality and other Friends also participated in efforts to address white supremacy and structural racism through groups such as Hate Free Decatur, Create Community 4 Decatur/ Black Lives Matter, and the End New Jim Crow Action Group.

**Quakers for Racial Equality** meets on 4th Sundays at 11:45 in the AFM library to support anyone with leadings to work for racial equality on personal, institutional, and societal levels.

**Contact:** Susan Firestone

**The Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting** meets jointly with Quakers for Racial Equality. The committee offers a Listening Ear for Concerns about Racism once a month and develops learning opportunities such as forums.

**Contact:** Karen Morris

**Atlanta Friends of Color** gather periodically and have started a new tradition of gathering for a meal and conversation on the 18th of December. To speak with a Friend of Color and be added to the list,

**Contact:** Folami Adams

You're welcome to join us!