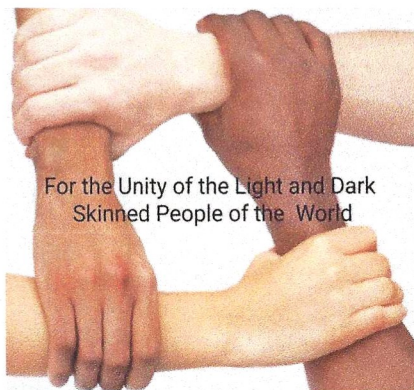




Making Racism Wrong Again

A Convocation, held via Zoom, of the Unitarian
Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Council

**Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026, 11 a.m.-1 pm Central time
(Starts at Noon Eastern, 10:00 am Mtn, 9:00 am Pacific)**

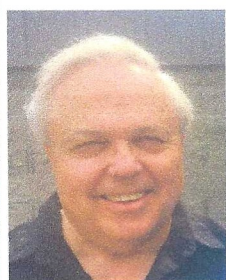
3 Featured Speakers address aspects of this issue



How best to use law to fight racism at this time. **Melissa Staas** has spent her legal career fighting against the racial and economic inequity that families experience in the family regulation ("child protection") system. As a managing attorney at the ACLU of Illinois, Melissa's current practice focuses on systems reform through litigation and related advocacy, including disability and family justice issues that disproportionately harm Black and brown people. Melissa has engaged in systems-based litigation reform, including class action lawsuits and individual civil rights cases against the state child welfare agency. Melissa is a 2007 graduate of Loyola University Chicago School of Law, where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the Children's Legal Rights Journal.



Best political strategies to fight racism at this time. **Alex Zamalin** is a Professor of Africana Studies and Political Science at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. He is the author of numerous books, *African American Political Thought and American Culture: The Nation's Struggle for Racial Justice* (New York: Palgrave, 2015), *Struggle on their Minds: The Political Thought of African American Resistance* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2017) and many more. Zamalin is also co-editor of *Revolutionary Hope in a Time of Crisis* (Routledge: 2024) and *American Political Thought: An Alternative View* (New York: Routledge, 2017). His scholarly essays have appeared in various edited book collections and journals.



How people of faith can best fight racism at this time. **Dr. Kenneth Christiansen** has been active with race issues since participating in a Lutheran volunteer ministry serving residents of the Robert Taylor Homes public housing project in Chicago, 1965-67. He taught religion and sociology classes, including Cultural Diversity and Business Ethics, at Defiance College in Ohio from 1974 to 2008. From 2014 – 2021 Dr. Christiansen held leadership positions with ICARE, the Interfaith Coalition for Action, Reconciliation and Empowerment, a Church Based Community Organization in Jacksonville, Florida.

There will be time for questions and comments by those in attendance

**TO REGISTER send an email to UUMUAC@gmail.com;
Zoom codes will be sent the day before the Convocation**