

Racial Justice Mission Group Members

Tara Bickford Bailey is a cis-gendered, heterosexual female (she/her) of northern European descent and a retired music therapist. She is currently active at the Northwood Congregational Church, UCC, just 3 miles from her home in Strafford, NH. Tara grew up in UCC churches in Concord, MA; Nashua, NH (confirmed at Pilgrim Congregational); and Rochester, NH (First Church Congregational). After graduating from UNH majoring in both social work and psychology, Tara served as a rural women's extension agent in the Peace Corps in Kenya, East Africa. After returning to the US she worked in the social work field for almost 30 years as a crime victim advocate at the NH Attorney General's Office; a crime victim advocate at the Maricopa County Attorney's Office in Phoenix, AZ; a child advocate at Childhelp USA, AZ; and a child advocate at Defenders of Children, AZ. She began her last career as a music therapist for children with special needs in 2013. During her adult years she has been a member of Hooksett Congregational Church UCC, NH; Scottsdale Congregational Church, UCC, AZ; and has served as a Youth Group Leader, Christian Education Chair and Team member, on Stewardship Teams, on Worship Teams, Director of the Wednesday evening programs for children and youth, as a choir member, hand bell choir member, a band member, and more. During 2005-2006 she served on the CrossWalk America Team that advocated for justice and extravagant welcome for people who identify as LGBTQ+? in communities of faith. Since June of 2021 she has been serving Northwood Congregational Church as the facilitator of its newly formed Racial Justice Team.

John Gregory-Davis is a cis-gendered, hetero male (he/him) of northern European descent, who co-pastors with his partner, Susan, the Congregational Church (a spiritually progressive, Open and Affirming, Sanctuary congregation of the United Church of Christ) in Meriden, NH. Having run a shelter for homeless men in Hartford, CT for 8 years before coming to NH 25 years ago, John brought with him a passion for social, economic, & racial justice which has often led him to demonstrate, vigil, and testify in Concord on various legislative initiatives. While in in seminary at Boston University School of Theology, John was active in prison ministry, and while in Hartford, John was arrested twice in Washington, DC for civil disobedience in support of adequate and affordable housing as a human right for all people. John currently serves on the NH Conference Peace with Justice Advocates, Economic Justice, & Racial Justice Ministry Teams, as well as being active in the NH Immigration Solidarity Network, the Poor Peoples' Campaign, and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ). John's church has sponsored weekly Black Lives Matter vigils in Meriden for the past 5 years, and is currently discerning how to become more intentionally anti-racist in theology and action.

Tim Hughes is of European Decent. Paternal Grandmother born in Great Britain. Paternal Great Grandmother and Maternal Grandmother descended from Alsace, France. Also, Irish and Welsh heritage.

Tim has had a varied career including: local church Youth Ministry; video production; musical performance; teaching children's musical theater; construction work; graphic design; hand-made leather

goods manufacturing; small business owner; and finally, Outdoor Ministry (Church Camp Director) which requires skills from all his previous experiences!

Tim is a life-long student of Christianity, social justice work, anti-racism and sacred community building and is never happier than when all three are involved, especially if it includes dark chocolate. Hobbies include playing guitar, banjo, uke with friends; fixing things that are broken to avoid filling up the landfills, and being outside in God's creation.

Kate Kennedy is the Associate Pastor at the Congregational Church of Amherst, NH. She began her journey towards becoming an antiracist while she was doing her CPE residency at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill, NC, a program that profoundly affected the way she sees and reads the world. Kate grew up in New Hampshire, and her ancestors are from Armenia, Sweden, and Italy. She attended Boston University School of Theology for her M.Div., and continues to strive to be a learner and interrupter in her professional and personal life. Participating on the Racial Justice Mission Group is one of the most important aspects of her ministry here in New Hampshire, and she sees racial justice as the central call of God to the Christian church today. Kate lives in Lee, NH with her spouse, Rufy, and two cats, Simon and Mateo.

Bruce Kinney is descended from European ancestors from Germany, England, Scotland and the Netherlands. He was raised in the Chicago area and spent 22 years in Dallas, Texas before moving to New Hampshire in 2000. He has been married to Regina for 39 years and they have two adult children who live in the Boston area. He retired in 2020 from a career as a software/systems engineer.

Raised Presbyterian, Bruce and Regina joined the Congregational Church of Amherst, UCC, upon moving to New Hampshire, and they are currently members of the First Congregational Church of Manchester, UCC. He has served in many leadership positions in local churches and the NH Conference. He currently serves as president of the NH Conference, UCC, Board of Directors.

Bruce is a progressive Christian who believes that racial and environmental justice are two of the most important issues of our time, and that the church has a lot to say about both. He has participated in racial and social justice work and advocacy in recent years, including marches in Boston, Nashua, and at General Synod in Milwaukee. He joined the Racial Justice Mission Group in 2020 and is supporting the group's anti-racist training and advocacy work within the NH Conference.

Rev. Mark Koyama is the settled pastor at the United Church of Jaffrey in Jaffrey, New Hampshire. Mark holds theological degrees from Union Seminary in New York City (MA 1994) and Yale Divinity School (M.Div. 2015). He also earned an MFA in fiction from the University of Massachusetts 2010. In addition to his ministry, Mark is also a teacher of English and Religious Studies at Northfield Mount Hermon School. Mark's father, Kosuke Koyama came to the United States from Japan in the early 1950's. Mark's mother Lois Koyama (*née*: Rozendaal) grew up in Iowa. Her grandfather, Willem Rozendaal emigrated to America from Holland in 1888. Koyama means "Small

Mountain" in Japanese and Rozendaal means "Valley of Roses" in Dutch, so Mark feels right at home in the New Hampshire landscape.

Ethel McConaghy is a member of the Congregational Church of North Barnstead. She was instrumental in organizing this newly year-round, UCC church in 2000. She has served as Moderator and on the Call Committee, Deacons and Prudential Board. At the NHCUCC Ethel has served on the Human Resource Committee.

Ethel's commitment to Civil Rights began early in her family and blossomed during the 1960s. She participated in Crossroads Africa in Ethiopia, and served with the Peace Corps in Senegal. Throughout her career she provided leadership for "multicultural" and subsequently "diversity" events. In retirement, she and her husband are very active in their community's programs for children and youth and seniors.

Ethel's professional life began in the field of Early Childhood Education primarily as a planner and advocate. Her graduate work was in child development opened with a paper was on the development of racial attitudes in young children. The second half of her career was within HR and Diversity Departments of Fortune 50 Corporations with a "work/life balance" portfolio of family support services. Ethel is married, step-mother to 2 biracial and 4 African American children and the adoptive mom of a European American child. Ethel's grandparents were immigrants from England and Northern Ireland.

Kira Morehouse's interest in racial justice is rooted in her African American heritage. Her involvement with the Racial Justice Mission Group, New Hampshire Conference reflects her having been raised in a family that passed on intergenerational stories rooted in the values of civil rights and equity. Her interest in the RJMG was sparked while attending NHCUCC Annual Meeting in 2018 as a delegate from Brookside Congregational Church in Manchester, NH where she has been a member since 2007. Hearing the motion to create racial justice churches was when she realized that there were larger church missions to educate and advocate for a more inclusive experience. This anti-racism work starts with acknowledging our history of Black, Indigenous, People of Color that goes back a long way here in New Hampshire but is often forgotten and overlooked. We must acknowledge the role in which our churches have in acknowledging the fullness of our history and how that has negative impact on all of us as community members in faith.

Kira regularly attends church with her husband and their two daughters. She looks forward to bringing more visibility and alliance among us and others who have common goals of promoting diversity, equity and inclusion.

Tivvi Pare (she/her/hers) is of European descent. She is a member of Pilgrim Congregational Church in Nashua, New Hampshire though she now lives in Clemson, South Carolina most of the year. Tivvi graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education in 2019 and a Master's Degree in Education in 2020. When she is not teaching fifth grade Reading and English

Language Arts in South Carolina she is working up at Horton Center, the NHCUCC's Outdoor Ministries site in Gorham, New Hampshire, as the Summer Director. Tivvi began her lifelong journey to ending white supremacy and becoming an anti-racist activist in her college years. She is involved in Horton Center's efforts to become a more welcoming and safe space for all of God's Children which includes doing trainings and book studies with the summer camp's staff and volunteers. In order to further her efforts to dismantle white supremacy within and beyond the camp setting, Tivvi joined the New Hampshire Conference's Racial Justice Ministry Group in 2021.

Kurt Allan Walker (he/his/him) is a cis-gendered, heterosexual of northern European descent. He serves God through the people of God at Deerfield Community Church (DCC). Prior to serving in NH, Kurt has served in Rhode Island and in Indiana. During his time in Rhode Island, he led the initiative to make the then Rhode Island Conference Open and Affirming and successfully led the initiative to make mandatory Racial Justice Training for all UCC clergy in Rhode Island. He also served as the Communications Director of the Religious Coalition for a Violence-Free Rhode Island, partnering with over 150 clergy of various faith traditions, as well as other faith-based non-profits, on various state legislation initiatives including gun safety, LGBTQIA+ rights, criminal justice reform, and abortion rights. Kurt also served as a member of the Coordinating Committee for the Rhode Island Chapter of the Poor People's Campaign; President, member of the Board of Directors and Executive Council of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches; and was a member of the Rhode Island Association's Committee on Church and Ministry.

During his time in Indiana, he served on the Committee on Church and Ministry for the Southeast Association of the Indiana/Kentucky Conference, succeeding to establish a Multiple Paths to Ministry curriculum for individuals who felt called to ordained Christian ministry but who could not afford the cost of going to seminary and obtaining an MDiv.

Kurt graduated from Bridgewater State University (B.S. in Psychology), and Andover Newton Theological School (M. Div.) with a concentration in Interfaith Dialogue and Worship and the Arts. While at ANTS, Kurt was an early member of Journeys on the Hill, which was a student-led interfaith movement between Andover Newton and Hebrew College. This movement paired students from each institution to study together and to be in relationship with one another through chavruta. He was also a founding member of the Prison Ministry Fellowship. This student-led group was dedicated to reaching out to the imprisoned. We trained students in the Alternatives to Violence (ATV) program and partnered with Partakers and Hebrew College to mentor students enrolled in Boston University's College Behind Bars program.

He was selected to participate in the founding cohort of the Chautauqua Clergy Leadership Program (2014-2016), having the privilege of honing his skills as a public theologian and social gospel preacher at the feet of some of the country's greatest theologians and activists.

Kurt was a contributing writer to the Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette's book, "Bless This Mess."

Additional work and experience:

- Crisis Counselor with Crisis Text Line (crisistextline.org)
- Alumni Board of Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School
- UMMT and Mentoring Team member of the NHCUCC
- Pastor of the Week on Star Island
- A Lead Tenor of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, house chorus to the Boston Symphony Orchestra. He's performed all over the world and recorded with the BSO, POPS, and James Taylor on his album, "One Man Band"

Harriet Corean Ward is an African American Black member of Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Brentwood Kingston. She is former chair of trustees and served as chaplain of the pastoral search committee. Harriet is a member of the UCC Board of Director where she is currently serving on the Finance Committee, the Development Committee a Task Force that focuses on The Ecology of Giving and Generosity throughout the Greater Church and the Nominating Committee... Harriet completed Sacred Conversations to End Racism facilitated by Rev. Dr. Velda Love, National UCC Minister for Racial Justice. In the New Hampshire Conference, she is Co-Chair of the RJMG and collaborating with another RJMG member in the production of NH Juneteenth Celebration –an educational Facebook page that focuses on African American Culture{s}, unfiltered history and achievements. Professionally, Harriet has taught blind, deafblind, multiply challenged and neurologically diverse students, has authored, edited and collaborated on many research and curriculum development projects and served as an adjunct professor and mentor/instructor of vision studies. Her doctoral interest was in Brain Based Vision Loss in Infants and Young Children. In semi-retirement she continues Braille transcription and consultation to schools. The joys in her life are two young grandchildren and a teenaged niece.