

# Northern Yearly Meeting

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About two years ago Northern Yearly Meeting asked all committees to keep in mind how their actions as a committee decrease or increase racism. In May 2006 Ernie and Vince Buscemi gave a plenary talk on the topic of racism titled “Moving Toward a Blessed Community” as well as a workshop for the clerk’s team and committee clerks on eliminating racism within the yearly meeting.

A brainstorm on possible activities around race and racism produced the following ideas:

- Creating a curriculum on the civil rights movement for First Day School;
- Attendance by a young Friend at an Alternatives to Violence Workshop;
- Consider a workshop on “entitlement and cultural appropriation”;
- Writing article for NYM newsletter on privilege;
- Draft a minute similar to NEYM’S minute on racism;
- One Friend promised to have his local meeting advertise MfW times in community newspapers that reach more diverse neighborhoods;
- One Friend will sit in meetings with marginalized friends who may be sitting alone;
- Presenting a workshop on the life of Bayard Rustin;
- Seek clearness of whether to bring MfW outdoors in urban neighborhoods;
- A radio host will do interviews with Friends on racism;
- Review local meeting’s FDS materials to make sure they are inclusive, e.g., dolls, posters, books, curriculum;
- Two Friends wished to include “local people of color” at the Gathering in River Falls, 2007, in particular Rev. Don Samuels, founder of Peace Foundation in Minneapolis

It was noted that it remains to be seen what ideas will come to fruition, and that there has been a variety of energy from Friends who initially signed on to projects.

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